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## Texas Time

***Touchdown pass from unexpected source helps Huskers take lead in Big 12 North***



**Brian HILL**

NEBRASKA'S opening drive stalled at the Kansas State 17-yard line, and Jordan Congdon lined up for what looked like a routine 34-yard field goal. After kicking 19 field goals in 23 attempts during a record-setting freshman season, he has had few chances this season.

Congdon connected from 38 yards out against Southern California and from 21 yards against Kansas. His only miss was a 37-yard attempt in the second game against Nicholls State.

That Congdon has had so few attempts is not necessarily a bad thing. Through six games, the Huskers had scored 33 touchdowns, just one less than they scored the entire 2005 season.

Touchdown No. 34 would come on a fake field goal. Jake Wesch, a backup place-kicker and the holder, took the fourth-down snap, got up, rolled to his right and found tight end Hunter Teafatiller all alone for six points, instead of three. Congdon, of course, got to contribute the first of his three extra points in Nebraska's 21-3 victory over Kansas State.

You can read more about the second straight road victory, which left the Huskers all alone atop the Big 12 North standings at 3-0 (the first time NU has started 3-0 in Big 12 play since 2001), in this edition of *Huskers Illustrated*. The subject of this week's "Spotlight" is junior linebacker Bo Ruud, part of a well-known Nebraska football family and

part of a Blackshirt defense that limited Kansas State to 22 yards rushing, as NU ended a four-game losing streak in Manhattan.

In our "Recruiting Through the Years" series, contributing editor Mike Babcock takes a look at the 1977 class, featuring Craig Johnson, who was described in a Husker media guide as "probably the best alternate running back in the country."

Nebraska continues to have success alternating I-backs this season. Against Kansas State, Brandon Jackson led the way with 16 carries for 96 yards, and Marlon Lucky added 71, including a 40-yard touchdown gallop.

In addition to making Nebraska bowl-eligible, victory No. 6 was the 800th win in the history of the program. The Huskers become the fourth school to win 800 games, joining Michigan (855), Notre Dame (816) and Texas (806).

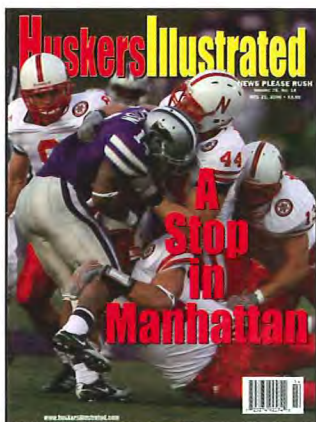
NU's game against Texas this week in Lincoln will be just the third between teams with 800 wins, joining Michigan against Notre Dame in 2005 and 2006.

The Longhorns tuned up for the meeting of Big 12 division leaders by throttling Baylor 63-31 in Austin. Redshirt freshman quarterback Colt McCoy set a Texas record with six touchdown passes as the Longhorns recovered from an early 10-point deficit.

The defending national champions are beatable. They fell to No. 1-ranked Ohio State 24-7 Sept. 9 in Austin but have outscored their last five opponents by a combined 236-65 and have won 18 straight games against Big 12 teams.

Nebraska also is playing well. The Huskers are one of just nine teams nationally with a 9-1 or 10-0 record in their past 10 games. Of course, Texas is also in that group.

NU is averaging 37 points a game, while Texas is scoring just over 40. Maybe it'll come down to a field goal. ■



### ON THE COVER

Andrew Shanle (8), Jay Moore (44), Corey McKeon (13) and Stewart Bradley (34) combine to wrap up Kansas State running back Leon Patton in NU's 21-3 win in Manhattan, Kan. Cover photo by Scott Bruhn.

## Huskers Illustrated

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# Huskers Illustrated

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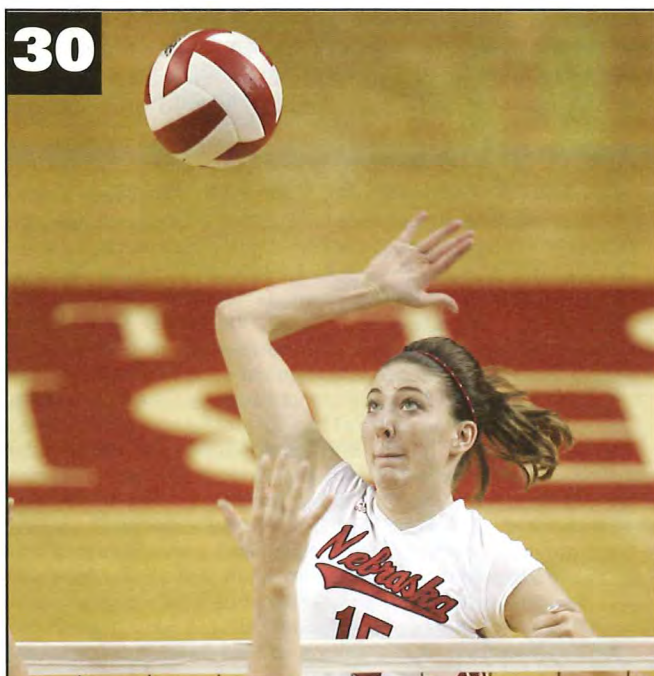
The only way Omaha running back Craig Johnson (above) would have gone anywhere else was if Nebraska hadn't offered a scholarship. And that was a source of frustration. *By Mike Babcock*

## NEXT ISSUE

The Texas review/Oklahoma State preview edition will be mailed Oct. 23. Check for updates at [huskersillustrated.com](http://huskersillustrated.com).

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# Support for Morris

The Nebraska baseball program rallied behind former Cornhusker Jed Morris, the Big 12 Player of the Year in 2002, after he was diagnosed with lymphocytic leukemia in mid-August. Support included a fund-raiser in conjunction with the annual fall-finishing Red-White Series.

Proceeds from the fund-raiser, which offered an opportunity to take batting practice at Hawks Field at Haymarket Park, went to the Jed Morris Victory Fund, established to help defray costs associated with chemotherapy treatments at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla.

"I'm not one for soliciting," coach Mike Anderson said in announcing the fund-raiser. "But in this case, I'm going to solicit. And I have no problem doing that."

Morris had been playing for the Oakland A's Texas League team in Midland when the cancer was diagnosed. In mid-October, he was in the third round of what doctors said would be eight rounds of the chemotherapy. "He has a tough kind of leukemia that he's battling," said Anderson.

The battle hasn't changed him, however, according to Anderson. "If you get a chance to visit with him, his first response will be caring about others, and very thankful for others. Jed's got a good heart. That's what makes it so special," Anderson said. "We're trying to help him out, but



Nebraska's Jed Morris was named the Big 12 Player of the Year in 2002. He hit .382, with 23 home runs.

he's wanting to make sure his parents are OK. He's wanting to make sure the people around him are OK.

"Every single time you talk to him, he's wanting to make sure that you know he's going to be OK. He's trying to re-assure you when, in fact, we're trying to re-assure him that he's going to be fine. He's always been a guy that's been gifted at giving things back, a very quietly spoken kid."

Morris was a consensus All-America catcher in 2002, batting .382 with 23 home runs and 90 runs-batted-in for the second Nebraska team to reach the College World Series. The native of Seabrook, Texas, transferred from Tyler (Texas) Junior College and now makes his home in Lincoln.

When Morris was told about the fund-raiser, "he said,

'Coach, we can make it. We're fine. But if you can do something, great,' " Anderson said. "His first thought was, 'If, by chance, I don't have the need for all of the money, I promise you, a young man or two or somebody will make this thing right.'"

"Jed has a need for the money. But Jed's concern wasn't about himself. And if you know Jed Morris, that's the way he is. He was that way as a teammate. He's that way as a friend of this program. So I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to do something for Jed Morris."

Donations to the fund can be made through the Nebraska baseball office (402-472-2269). ■

## AN EARLY VERSION OF PAY-PER-VIEW?

Nebraska football fans who couldn't travel to Manhattan, Kan., could watch the Kansas State game on pay-per-view television for \$29.95. That technology didn't exist in 1923, of course. But an attempt was made to provide coverage in Lincoln of Cornhusker road games.

The device was known as the Grid-graph or Grid-o-graph, depending on the account, and included a 15-foot by 12-foot electric scoreboard on which, according to Nebraska's student yearbook, "the name of the player, the sort of movement or play, the yards gained and the opponent who stopped the play" were displayed "by a complicated mechanism of lights — a little red light darting across the sheet, which in turn was cut up in 10-yard lines." The board was leased by the N Club and set up in the Nebraska Armory, Grant Hall. The band and cheerleaders were on hand. Admission was 25 cents.

Information was transmitted by telegraph from the site of the game to the university radio station and then to the Armory, where it was given to the Grid-graph operator to be

input.

Occasionally the information would pile up and the operator would fall behind. In the opening game of the 1923 season at Illinois, the first Grid-graph offering at Nebraska, the operator was given incorrect information. So the red light showed Illinois' legendary Red Grange flashing across the board, running 70 yards for a touchdown he never scored. "Only those fortunate enough to attend the Grid-graph exhibition ever saw this play — the rest of the world lost out," The Daily Nebraskan reported.

"Although this apparatus is not quite as interesting as the game, it aroused much enthusiasm," according to the student yearbook. A crowd of 3,000 was expected for the first game.

Only a few hundred showed up to "watch" Nebraska lose 24-7, according to the student newspaper. The yearbook, however, claimed that "the place was crowded every game." Whichever was true, the Grid-graph wasn't leased again. ■



# Quick Hits

## GOOD BYE

With the 12-game football schedules now allowed by the NCAA, Nebraska is playing 11 consecutive weeks before finally getting a break before finishing the regular season against Colorado on the day after Thanksgiving. This is the first season since 1989 that the Cornhuskers have not had a bye week during the first half of their schedule. Not having a bye week, changes the approach, "in terms of how you keep your team fresh, how you gauge your injuries and the health of your team and where you're at mentally and physically," said coach Bill Callahan. "I think it's important that you keep them fresh, more so mentally these days. So it's important to allow these kids to get regenerated, get fresh mentally and hopefully not tax them too much to where they just wear out."

Callahan said he prefers to have a bye week. "I think there's just a good point in time where you can take a break in the early portion of your schedule, whether it's after your third or fourth game. I think it's good to let the kids catch their breath, catch up on school a little bit, enjoy life somewhat. I think in the future there will be a bye with the 12-game schedule, from what I understand."

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Offensive lineman Carl Nicks, a transfer from New Mexico State by way of Hartnell Junior College in Salinas, Calif., isn't a language major. But he might have an aptitude for learning languages after his experience with Nebraska's playbook. "The terminology, it's like Chinese. But I'm picking it up," he said during preseason practice. "If I can pick up this, I could pick up French, German, fluently."



Carl Nicks

## BATTLING THE ODDS

Height hasn't been a deterrent to senior co-captain and special-teams player extraordinaire Brandon Rigoni. "With his size and stature, those guys normally aren't playing college football," Callahan said. "Let's face it, when you're 5-foot-6, it's hard to be a front-line player and then additionally have your teammates vote you a captain, you know, and a Blackshirt. That just speaks volumes for credibility, his leadership, his efforts, and his work ethic is just astronomical. He virtually wears himself out during the course of practice where we almost have to give him an IV to get through sometimes. He goes hard on every snap. You wish you had a hundred Brandon Rigoni's."

## LARSON LAURELS

Sophomore Jordan Larson was named the Big 12 Volleyball Player of the Week for Oct. 2-8, after averaging 5.83 points, 5.17 kills, on .382 hitting, and 4.17 digs in the top-ranked Huskers' sweeps of Kansas State and Texas A&M. Larson had double-doubles in digs and kills in both matches, her 10th and 11th double-doubles of the season and sixth and seventh in a row.

Larson is the first Husker to record seven consecutive double-doubles since Jennifer Saleamua did it in 2003. The player-of-the-week recognition was the second of Larson's career.

Coach John Cook's Huskers were among four undefeated teams in early October. The others, in order of ranking at that point, were Penn State, UCLA and Southern California.

## TIMKO TOP-DRAWER

Senior Brittany Timko was named the Top Drawer Soccer National Player of the Week after scoring three goals and adding an assist in conference victories against Baylor and Texas Tech. Timko's two goals against Texas Tech gave her 41 for her career, to go with 41 career assists. The only other Husker with 40 career goals and 40 career assists was Meghan Anderson (48 goals, 50 assists). No other Big 12 player has reached those career totals



Jordan Larson

and only 35 in NCAA history have. Timko was leading the conference in scoring one week into October, with 28 points — on 11 goals and six assists.

## PERFECT WITH PITCHING

The Husker softball team swept through the Big Red Fall Classic at Bowlin Stadium, defeating Colorado State twice on the first day of competition (4-2, 5-4) and then shutting out Kansas (3-0) and Creighton (1-0) on the second day. The losses were Colorado State's first in 10 games.

Sophomore right-hander Molly Hill was the winning pitcher in both Colorado games, relieving freshman Alex Hupp in the second after a three-hit, complete-game effort in the first.

Hupp, who is from Olathe, Kan., came back to pitch a two-hit shutout and go 2-for-4 with a double, an RBI and a run scored against Kansas. Senior Ashley DeBuhr pitched a two-hit shutout against Creighton. DeBuhr struck out nine and didn't walk any.

DeBuhr's pinch-hit, two-run single provided the winning runs in the opening game against Colorado State while senior Carmen Kier drove in Hupp with the winning run in the second game against Colorado State, going 2-for-3 with a home run. Senior Jamie Waldecker drove in three runs on the day.

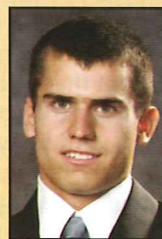


Alex Hupp

## HUSKER DOMINATION

Coach Kerry McDermott's men's tennis team earned four titles at the Georgia Tech Fall Invitational in Atlanta. Senior Adrian Szatmary won the Flight "A" singles competition, taking the championship match 6-0, 6-0 against Clemson's Ike Belk. Sophomore Hendrik Stahmer won the Flight "B" singles title, defeating Mississippi State's Ryan Farlow in the championship match 6-3, 6-2.

Senior James Clow won the Flight "A" consolation title, while Szatmary and junior Mark Tate defeated Husker teammates Clow and freshman Francois Van Impe in the Flight "A" doubles consolation championship match. Winning the "A" and "B" singles titles was "great for us as a program," said McDermott. "It boosts our team morale and gives the players the confidence they need."



Adrian Szatmary

## SEASON-OPENING SUCCESS

For the fourth consecutive season and the ninth time in the last 12 seasons, the Nebraska swimming and diving team opened with a dual-meet victory, defeating Missouri State in Springfield, Mo., 156-87. The Huskers won nine of 13 events, including three by senior Lauren Bailey: 200-yard freestyle (1:55.21), 500-yard freestyle (4:58.85) and 200-yard individual medley (2:08.96). Senior Kate Wheeler won the 100-yard freestyle (:53.24) and the 1,000-yard freestyle (10:18.72). And freshman Mariah Hutchinson won the 100-yard butterfly (:58.40). Senior Danielle Stansbury won the 3-meter diving (249.08) and junior Kaci Ressler won the 1-meter diving (234.53). Nebraska also won the 200-yard freestyle relay (1:39.62).

## MONTHLY HONOR

Junior Elli Brown was named the Big 12 Golfer of the Month for September, after finishing in the top five individually in each of the Huskers' first three tournaments.

## REYNOLDS LEADS THE WAY

Senior Drew Reynolds shot a three-round 222 to lead the Nebraska men's golf team at the Memphis Intercollegiate tournament in Memphis, Tenn. Reynolds finished in a tie for 31st individually, while the Cornhuskers finished 15th as a team, with a 904 total. The other Nebraska finishers: senior Brady Schnell (227), senior Ty Capps (230), senior Ryan Lenahan (231). Freshman Jamie Marshall's 233 total didn't count in the team score. Louisville won the team title with a 7-under-par 857. ■



## Ready To Return

*Mann trying to work his way back into the lineup while recovering from serious illness*



**Mike BABCOCK**

NIGHTS WERE THE WORST, fever then chills then fever again.

"I'd be like that every two hours during the night," Kurt Mann said. That's when he was the sickest. And that's why he spent five days in the hospital dreading the nights.

He was sick during the day, but nothing like at night.

The fever got as bad as 104. And he had to be put in ice. "That wasn't fun," he said. "But it did help."

Mann described his ordeal for reporters following the Nebraska football team's weekly news conference on the Tuesday before the Kansas State game. He showed up as reporters were preparing to leave, after several teammates and coach Bill Callahan had taken their turns.

The senior center looked none the worse for his ordeal, except that he hadn't regained all the weight he lost. He dropped from 285 pounds to 260, he said. And he was back to 275.

"I'm trying to eat," he said, managing a smile. "That's probably all I can do."

As for his strength, "I have pretty much all of it back," he said. "I've been lifting about three weeks now. Conditioning-wise, I feel good in practice. And where I'm at in the game, I won't be able to tell until I get in the game. You can't simulate that kind of conditioning in practice."

However, he added, "I feel I'll be all right."

Offensive line coach Dennis Wagner wasn't so sure about that just yet.

Strength coach Dave Kennedy "said it's still not (the) consistent strength that he (Mann) needs," Wagner said. "He might have the one lift, but to go in and do it over a long period of time, that's still not there. And that's what concerns you in a game. So he needs to be patient."

"Kurt thinks he's ready to go. But Kurt's still not where he was. You don't come out of something like he had and just show up and start practicing and have the strength back."

What Mann had was mononucleosis. He was diagnosed with the illness following the opening game against Louisiana Tech, the 24th consecutive game he had started as a Cornhusker.

He felt fine during the game. But not so fine afterward. "I started feeling like I had the flu," he said. "I was sore, but I thought it was just because of the game. And it never went away."

Initially, Mann thought the problem would be short-lived. With each passing day, however, the problem grew

worse. "Somehow, it ended up attacking my liver, and all my liver enzymes got out of whack," he said. "That's what ended up making me so sick, the imbalance there."

"It took probably two weeks for those to get back to normal."

He was asked if there was ever a point at which he thought he might be sidelined for the remainder of his senior season. "Going in, I kind of thought it might be one or two games, so I wasn't too worried," he said. "The thought kind of slips in your mind, but you kind of push it aside."

"Right now it's kind of frustrating to see I missed half of the season."

Watching games on television also was frustrating, "just because my teammates are out there, and I feel like I'm letting them down if I'm not out there with them," Mann said. "It's very hard, after playing for a couple of years a lot, to watch them go through it by themselves. It's just hard knowing that they're sweating, and they're doing the best they can, and you're not helping."

Junior Brett Byford replaced him and has played well, said Wagner. Byford deserves "a lot of credit. He knows the system, and he's a consistent guy. The players love him."

"What's happening now is it's not a hand-me-off to Kurt. You can't take a guy out of the lineup after he's played well. There's got to be a reason to make the change. So I've told them it's a challenge every day on who's going to play."

"If you're in a scenario where they can both play in a game, we'll do that. But I've said this since I got here, I don't like changing centers with the quarterback because of the exchange

situation."

Mann understands, Wagner said. "He has to earn his job back."

The experience, or as described earlier the ordeal, has provided some perspective, reminded him of something he already knew, that football doesn't "last forever," Mann said. "It makes me realize that's something I need to take advantage of and enjoy the time I have."

It also made him realize the extent of the support system he has.

"It was great to see all the people that were praying for me, and I'm very grateful for that," he said. "I truly believe that helped me get out of the hospital." ■



**Center Kurt Mann had started 24 straight games.**

*Mike Babcock is a former sports columnist for the Lincoln Journal Star. He has covered Nebraska football for more than 25 years. Mike can be reached at MBABCOCK1@neb.rr.com or P.O. Box 6782, Lincoln, NE 68506.*



## Real McCoy

***Development of redshirt freshman quarterback has Longhorns back on course after early loss***



**Curt McKEEVER**

IT HASN'T TAKEN Texas' Colt McCoy long to prove that he's more than your typical wild-slinging, wide-eyed rookie quarterback. A lot more.

Unlike Kansas State's true freshman Josh Freeman — who can look brilliant on one series and clueless the next because he's required to make dazzling open-field plays for the work-in-progress Wildcats — the red-shirt freshman McCoy is a steadying force content to manage long drives rather than trying to be the second coming of Vince Young.

Definitely, his performance during the Longhorns' 28-10 win against Oklahoma left his teammates and coaches feeling better about the fact that Young left prematurely for the opportunity to play on Sundays.

"Colt's strengths are his poise, his accuracy, his toughness and his comprehension of what we're trying to do," offensive coordinator Greg Davis told the Austin American-Statesman. "That's pretty heady stuff for someone playing for the first time on that stage."

Apparently, Texas has got a real McCoy.

Unquestionably, McCoy's development has been the biggest factor in Texas getting back in position to defend its 2005 national championship.

No, his 11-for-18, 108-yard passing performance against the Sooners isn't going to thrust him into All-Big 12 quarterback talk. But the fact that he held up to every look Oklahoma gave him, and threw a pair of touchdowns with no interceptions, tells you a lot about his makeup.

"We think that game defines players in a lot of ways — fair or unfair," coach Mack Brown said. "When a guy goes in and plays like Colt did in his first one, it's so unique and unusual that the players just put him on a different pedestal and hold him up high. The confidence level that he showed in the second half has to help him."

McCoy was so smooth in the second half against Oklahoma that some people declared the Longhorns would come out with a much different ending if they faced Ohio State again. OK, so most of those folks live in Austin, but seriously, was it really this season that the Buckeyes delivered their 24-7 number on the Longhorns? That game seems a lot further removed than the second Saturday of September.

Texas trailed the Sooners 10-7 at halftime, but then McCoy delivered back-to-back touchdown drives of 52 and 79 yards. During those possessions, he was 5-for-5 passing for 56 yards and connected with Limas Sweed on a 33-yard scoring strike and Jordan Shipley on a 7-yarder.

"Hopefully, we'll see our offense just continue to get better because of Colt's maturity," Brown said. "The blitz that he read and threw deep to Limas was just an outstanding play. I

don't even think that one was as good of a play as the one to Jordan, because he gets hit right in the mouth with their defensive end as he turns the ball loose and anticipates the throw. That's a difficult throw because it's a wheel route, and the ball was in the air before Jordan even turned up. That should give Colt a lot of confidence."

McCoy agreed, but pointed out he's not the only one who should feel a boost.

"This is really how a team comes together," McCoy said. "Those games after Ohio State (against Rice, Iowa State and Sam Houston State) were really important for us coming together, (but) you really can't fuse this team together until you face adversity, until you face struggles."

"In those three games after Ohio State, we never really did because we pretty much had our way. Being able to face that and coming together shows a lot about our team and it shows a lot about our seniors and their leadership and being confident and going out there and playing."

As for his personal development?

"It's coming," McCoy said. "... It's (still) easy to make mistakes. Being able to keep your head in it and knowing where your eyes need to be, and knowing where your protections are, that's the most important thing."

McCoy also understand he's got one of the nation's best defenses supporting him. After the Oklahoma game, the Longhorns ranked No. 3 in rushing defense, No. 5 in scoring defense and No. 7 in total defense. A key to their win against the Sooners was limiting the league's front-runner for Offensive Player of the Year, Adrian Peterson, to 38 second-half yards.

"We challenged them at halftime," co-defensive coordinator Gene Chizik said. "We feel like we've played physical all year, but we had to make them

very aware that as the game went on that we had to be even more physical — because that's the type of running back Adrian Peterson is."

With Oklahoma in its rear-view mirror and Texas Tech having lost to Missouri, the Longhorns held a firm grip on the South Division.

How firm? Consider that since 2000, they've lost only one Big 12 game to an opponent other than the Sooners (Texas Tech in 2002).

"I personally thought it was the first time we played up to a standard that we expected, as both staff and team, in the second half," Brown said. "In this setting, when we had to grow up, this team did. We told them they've shown us how good they can be, so we'll sure expect it from now on ... We still think that we can have a special year." ■



**Freshman Colt McCoy had a solid game against Oklahoma.**

*Curt McKeever is a sportswriter for the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition to reporting on football, he is the primary beat writer for the men's basketball and baseball teams. He can be reached at cmckeever@journalstar.com*



# RECRUITING THROUGH THE YEARS







# Kansas Nemesis

*The Huskers finally offered,  
and Johnson found success,  
especially against the Jayhawks*

**By Mike Babcock**

**W**hen Nebraska finally offered a scholarship, Craig Johnson accepted.

The decision was a no-brainer, really. For one thing, the Cornhuskers were perennial national championship contenders. And for another, Johnson was from Omaha.

He was born in South Dakota and grew up in Minneapolis, where he developed a love of ice hockey. He continued to play hockey after his family moved to Omaha in 1970. But football became his sport, and like most of the state's top high school football players, he aspired to be a Cornhusker.

"Why would I go anywhere else?" he asked rhetorically, looking back.

The only way he would have was if Nebraska hadn't offered a scholarship. And that was a source of frustration. Even though he led the Metro Conference in rushing and scoring during his senior season at Westside High School, the Cornhuskers were slow in offering.

He had offers from other schools, including Kansas and Iowa State. And coaches were encouraging him to accept. "They were like, 'Nebraska isn't going to offer you. Commit to us,'" he said.

"And I'm like, 'No, I'm going to hang out here.'"

Craig Johnson rushed for 1,273 yards and 18 touchdowns in his Nebraska career.

## Seventh in a Series

He was confident the Cornhuskers would come through.

Eventually, they did, but not without a stipulation. First, they wanted to time him in the 40-yard dash to be sure of his speed. They weren't interested in a 160-pound I-back who couldn't run.

Johnson weighed 160 pounds back then, "soaking wet," he said.

By his senior season at Nebraska, he weighed close to 200 pounds.

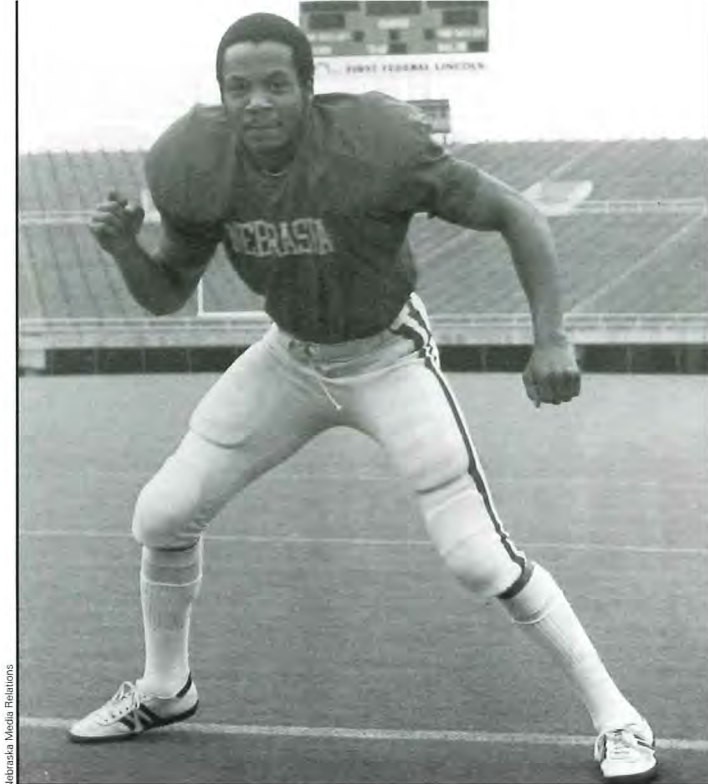
When the Cornhuskers called about running the 40's, he declined. He consulted his high school coach and decided that "if what I did on the field wasn't good enough for them, then I didn't need to jump through those hoops," said Johnson. "That's what we told them: 'We're not going to do that.'"

The Cornhuskers relented. His track success that spring alleviated their concerns, after the fact.

Johnson was among several running backs in coach Tom Osborne's 1977 recruiting class. The most prominent, perhaps, was 6-foot-4, 218-pound Greg Whetsel from Ridgeway, Ohio.

Whetsel rushed for 3,527 yards and scored 47 touchdowns during his high school career. And he turned down scholarship offers from Ohio State, Michigan and Southern California. He was considered a can't-miss





Andra Franklin (above) was the only freshman who played with the varsity. Russell Gary (left) and Craig Johnson were brought up to practice with the varsity defensive backs.

prospect, as was Peter Boll, a 6-7, 258-pound lineman from Chattanooga, Tenn.

"Those are the guys I read about," Johnson said.

Newspaper speculation was that Whetsel and Boll were among four freshmen in Johnson's recruiting class who might contribute immediately. The others, both of them Texans, were wide receiver Maurice McCloney from Beaumont and defensive back Sammy Sims from Lubbock.

As it turned out, McCloney didn't enroll until second semester. And none of the four played with the varsity. The only freshman who did was Andra Franklin from Anniston, Ala.

Franklin earned a letter as a back-up fullback and kick returner, then started three seasons.

Everyone else played for coach Guy Ingles freshman team. Johnson shared time at I-back with Russell Gary, who was recruited as a running back-defensive back. At the time, most Cornhusker freshmen were listed either-or, offense or defense. Johnson was among the exceptions.

Late in the season, however, he and Gary were brought up to practice with the varsity defensive backs. The move was temporary, and brief, for him. But not for Gary, who would earn first-team all-conference honors at safety as a senior. "He was a great athlete," said Johnson.

If Gary hadn't been so impressive at defensive back, he might have remained a running back, too, accord-

ing to Johnson, who also would play without redshirting his second season.

With junior Tim Wurth (who also played fullback) hampered by a neck injury, Johnson became the third I-back behind senior Richard Berns and junior Isaiah Hipp as a true sophomore.

Like the others, Johnson earned playing time not only for his ball-carrying ability but also for his toughness. Veteran running backs coach Mike Corgan demanded that.

Corgan's nickname, "Iron Mike," was justified. Even though he didn't play for Corgan as a freshman, Johnson was "scared to death" of the former Notre Dame running back.

"It was like you were on pins and needles," Johnson said. "He was hard-nosed."

What might have helped him in Corgan's eyes was his play on the scout team prior to the Oklahoma game his freshman year. The scout team running backs "really concentrated on cut-blocking defensive backs," said Johnson. "Back then, you could 'cut' a guy." And the Sooners did.

So the Cornhusker coaches "wanted our defensive backs to work on shedding that type of block," Johnson said. "I was a decent cut-blocker and wasn't afraid to stick my nose into a guy's knees. Coach (Lance) Van Zandt and Coach Corgan probably communicated some."

Van Zandt was the defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach

and, no doubt, told Corgan that Johnson was doing what he was supposed to be doing, and a good job of it besides.

"I was never really afraid to hit. That was the one thing; it never bothered me. Then, as we progressed, I really got a great respect for Mike Corgan because he was ultra-fair and he had fun." His stern demeanor notwithstanding, he "had a great sense of humor." Like Osborne's, "it was dryer than heck."

Corgan also wouldn't tolerate what he considered showboating, which amounted to anything other than handing the ball to the nearest official after scoring a touchdown.

Once, Wurth punched the fence beyond the end zone. The punishment involved punching the fence 100 times at practice. "It was elementary stuff," said Johnson, "but effective."

The Cornhusker media guide in 1981, following Johnson's senior season, described him as "probably the best alternate running back in the country" from 1978 to 1980. He rushed for 1,273 yards, averaging 6.4 yards per carry for his career, and scored 18 touchdowns.

His biggest days came against Kansas, the school he probably would have picked if Nebraska hadn't offered a scholarship. As a sophomore, for example, he rushed for 192 yards on only 10 carries against the Jayhawks and scored two touchdowns, one on a 78-yard pass play. The next year, he had a 94-yard touch-



down run, a school record, against Kansas. The Jayhawks could never contain him.

Soon after he finished at Nebraska, Johnson got a real estate license. He's had his own real estate company since 1994. He had wife Shari live in Omaha. Sons Curtis and Tomy are at Nebraska. Tomy, a freshman, walked on to the Cornhusker track and field team as a triple jumper.

Osborne was in his fifth year as head coach when Johnson arrived. He was still laying the foundation for a Hall of Fame career. That he would be enshrined some 20 years later came as no surprise, "not a bit," Johnson said. "If a guy didn't take anything out of his career playing for Tom Osborne, the one thing you'd take away is, he works his tail off and is so committed to whatever it is.

"I really think you have to admire and respect somebody who can put for so much discipline and work ethic into something. Those things showed throughout his career."

As any Cornhusker fan knows, Osborne "sure went through some up-and-down coaching periods," said Johnson. "But I don't think he ever wavered on what he did on a day-to-day basis. 'If I do this successfully, I know it's going to pay dividends

Recruiting list, 1977				
Player, Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	Letters
Peter Boll, L	6-7	258	Chattanooga, Tenn.	
Randy Brooks, RB-DB	5-11	170	Omaha	
Tom Carlstrom, OT-DT	6-7	235	Polk, Neb.	1980-81
Don Coleman, RB-DB	5-10	175	Gordon, Neb.	
Jeff Finn, TE-DE	6-5	205	Grand Island, Neb.	1978-79-80
Andra Franklin, RB-LB	6-0	190	Anniston, Ala.	1977-78-79-80
Russell Gary, RB-DB	6-0	170	Minneapolis	1978-79-80
Curt Hinline, L	6-3	223	Bellevue, Wash.	1979-80-81
Al Hunt, FB-DB	6-0	194	Oshkosh, Neb.	
Dan Hurley, FB-DT	6-2	230	Omaha	1979-80-81
Craig Johnson, RB	6-2	174	Omaha	1978-79-80
Jim Kotera, RB-DB	6-0	180	Bellevue, Neb.	1978-79-80
Randy Landwehr, RB-DB	6-1	195	Dunbar, Neb.	
*Frank Lockett, SE	6-1	195	Richmond, Calif.	1977-78
Maurice McCloney, SE	6-1	190	Beaumont, Texas	1978
*Greg McQuitter, DB	6-2	195	Maywood, Ill.	
Alvin Markfort, SE-DB	6-1	185	St. Paul, Minn.	
Bobby Marks, QB-DB	6-0	190	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	
Mark Mauer, QB-LB	6-3	190	St. Paul, Minn.	1979-80-81
Steve Michaelson, QB	6-0	196	Omaha	
Robert O'Rourke, OT-LB	6-5	225	North Platte, Neb.	
Greg Rabas, TE-LB	6-4	200	Kewaunee, Wisc.	
*Mike Ruzich, DT-TE	6-3	230	Hometown, Ill.	
Scott Sherry, DE	6-3	195	Ralston, Neb.	
Sammy Sims, DB	6-2	195	Lubbock, Texas	1979-80-81
*Billy Todd, K-P	6-0	190	Chandler, Ariz.	1977-78
Greg Whetsel, RB	6-4	218	Ridgeway, Ohio	
<b>State breakdown:</b> Nebraska 12, Minnesota 3, Alabama 2, Illinois 2, Texas 2, Arizona, California, Ohio, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin.				
*Junior college transfer				

down the road.' "

That approach continues to serve Johnson well, too. "Every day you

kind of re-sharpen the pencil and reflect on doing the right things that will do something good," he said. ■

Bob Devaney, 1915-1997

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# No Pressure

***Ruud says he didn't feel like he had to follow in anyone's footsteps***

**By Terry Douglass**

**W**hile it's logical to assume that Bo Ruud was born and bred to be a Nebraska football player, the junior linebacker insists that the idea of continuing a family legacy had little to do with his desire to play for the Cornhuskers.

"Growing up here in Lincoln, it was kind of a deal where you were just led into that," Ruud said. "This is pretty much where I always saw myself being, and since it's where I've ended up, I'm pretty happy about that."

Ruud, who is in his second season as Nebraska's starting weakside linebacker, comes from a long line of Cornhuskers. His brother, Barrett Ruud, is the program's all-time leading tackler and now plays for the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers. His father, Tom Ruud, was an All-Big Eight linebacker for NU from 1972-74 and spent five seasons in the NFL with Buffalo and Cincinnati.

In addition, Bo's uncles (Bob Martin from 1973-75 and John Ruud 1978-79) played for Nebraska. So did his great grandfather Clarence Swanson (1918-21).

Considering the pedigree, it probably came as no sur-

**#51 Bo RUUD**  
**JUNIOR LINEBACKER**

prise when Bo Ruud became Nebraska's earliest commitment, pledging to sign with the Huskers in June of 2001 — 20 months before national signing day in 2003. However, the Lincoln Southeast graduate insists that it wasn't so much a family tradition as it was achieving his own personal goals.

"I just saw it as a situation where I wanted to do my best, and wherever I ended up, that would be OK," Ruud said. "As long as I was putting my all into it, I didn't really worry about what other people thought. I just wanted to play football, have fun and go to college, and anything else that happened was OK."

While his family is certainly proud of its accomplishments, Ruud said no one ever put pressure on him to continue the family's football tradition.

"That's not how my family is," Ruud said. "We don't even talk anything like that. We just grew up a pretty regular family, and there was never like you had any pressure to do anything."

"We've got great family and friends, and nobody really ever expected us to do anything or be anything. The people who are closest to us are just proud of us for what we've been able to do, and they've never put any pressure on us."

While he may not have been forced to follow in anyone's footsteps, having a father who played in the NFL certainly didn't hurt Bo and Barrett Ruud's chances of being football standouts.





"My dad has been through it all — he was a pro — so he knows the ins and outs of how to make it in football," Ruud said. "Growing up, he didn't force me to be anything, but he always said, 'If you're going to play, you've got to do it right,' so he taught me kind of how to play.

"He taught me where you've got to be, how you've got to play in terms of using your hands. He was always good with knowing all that type of stuff, so I kind of had an edge growing up that I had a father that knew more than most of the coaches."

Another built-in plus was growing up with a brother, Barrett, who provided Bo with a daily source of competition. Bo said he and Barrett "did everything together" growing up.

That included playing one-on-one football in the basement of their home. Pillows placed around the room provided the brothers with their only source of padding.

"We played full-out tackle football — me versus my brother in the basement almost every day," Bo Ruud said. "Then my dad would take us outside, and we'd do one-on-one pass coverage and play a passing game that we had.

"We'd do that all the time. We've been playing against each other for as long as I can remember, and it was always really good battles, and I think that's where you really learn to love the game more than anything, playing like that, because we were just playing for fun."

Although Barrett Ruud's last year at Nebraska was 2004, the two brothers are actually only 18 months apart in age. Bo Ruud said that meant that the two were pretty similar in size until Barrett hit a growth spurt in high school.

Despite some fierce battles, Bo said he and Barrett have always been close. That relationship has continued to be tight, thanks to their regular telephone conversations that allow them to stay in touch.

While Bo Ruud certainly wouldn't turn down a chance to play in the NFL like his brother and father before him, the 6-foot-3, 235-pound junior is fixated on being the best player he can be at Nebraska.

With a team-high nine tackles in a

28-14 win over Iowa State on Oct. 7, Ruud moved up to third place on the team with 33 tackles through the first six games.

"Bo has played great for us," Nebraska defensive coordinator Kevin Cosgrove said. "He's a guy who works hard every day, knows his assignments and executes. We're very happy with the way he's started this season."

While Ruud is confident in his physical abilities, he said the strength of his game might be his football IQ.

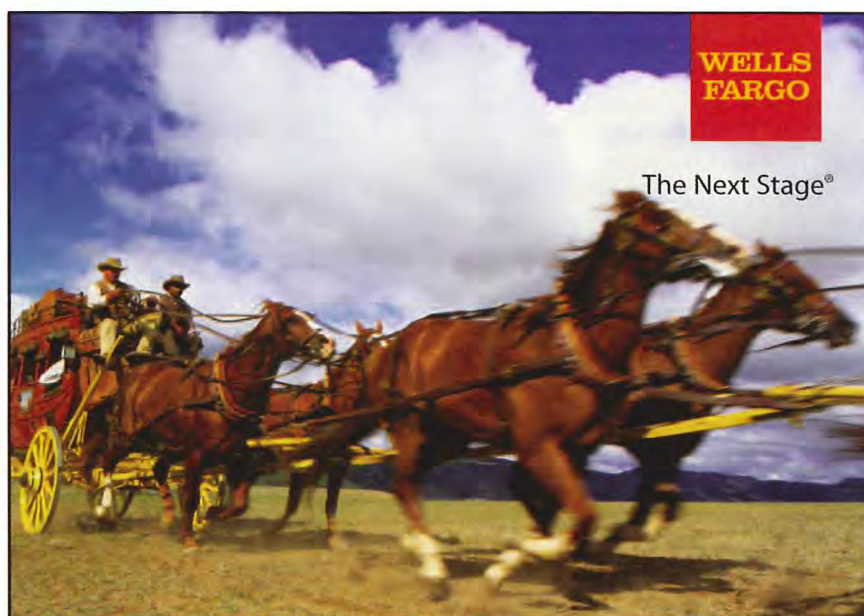
"I think I've got a pretty good understanding of the game and schemes and where you've got to be and how you've got to get there,"

Ruud said. "I think the thing you'll find about me is that I'm rarely out of position, and that's something that, I think, is a huge advantage on the field."

With steady improvement and a strong senior year, Ruud might just get the chance to continue a family tradition of playing pro football.

"That would be great, but to play in the NFL you really have to build up your stock, and I don't even know where I'm at right now," Ruud said. "I'll just have to wait and see about that." ■

**Terry Douglass** is the sports editor of the *Grand Island (Neb.) Independent*. He can be reached at [terry.douglass@charter.net](mailto:terry.douglass@charter.net).



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# 10 QUESTIONS

## with **DAN ERICKSON**

**6-1/195 Jr. Wide Receiver  
Omaha, Neb.**

**C**redit former Cornhusker Kellen Huston for Dan Erickson's decision to walk on at Nebraska. Or more accurately, credit Emmett Huston, Kellen's dad. Emmett Huston was a small-college All-America running back, Erickson said, and "he talked about how he had always kind of regretted not trying to go up to the big level and saying, 'Hey, can I play with these guys?' That was a big factor."

So when Nebraska offered an opportunity to walk on, Erickson took it, turning down scholarships from smaller schools. He didn't want to look back some day and wonder: What if? "I thought I might be a little disappointed with myself if I took the easy way out," he said.

Erickson followed brother Mike to Nebraska. Mike Erickson, an offensive lineman and scholarship recruit, was a four-year letterman (2001-04). Dan met Kellen Huston through Mike.

Dan played safety in the spring, but "I prefer wideout," he said. "There are a whole lot more guys in the rotation, as opposed to safety, where they play just the two guys the whole game."

He also plays on the kickoff-coverage and kickoff-return teams.

### **What's the best movie you've ever seen?**

"The best movie, I think, I've ever seen is 'Gladiator.' I love that movie. I have it on DVD. I've seen it probably 20 times."

### **Terrell Owens or Keyshawn Johnson?**

"I don't really follow the NFL too much, but I know they both like to run their mouth. But if it comes down to maybe guys being more accountable, I might go with Keyshawn; he seems to miss a little less training camp. He may run his mouth, but he seems to be around more."

### **What do you remember most about the first Nebraska football game you ever attended?**

"Not much about the first game I ever attended. I just remember it was huge. It was in 1993, like the second game Tommie Frazier started, and we were so geeked up. We had seats in the south end, I think it was, and everybody was just so dang excited. We'd always asked my dad, 'How come we can't go to another one?' Then when Mike got recruited, we started coming to games every week. That was a blast. I remember sitting in the stands, 'Man, I want to be a part of that.'"

### **The last time you went trick-or-treating on Halloween, what was your costume?**

"This really isn't too hard. I was 16-years old. A friend in Omaha and I dressed up in Army fatigues, painted our faces, and went around. A lot of people kind of cringed. They made us sing the trick-or-treat song before we could get candy. We'd go back and hit the houses right before they were about to turn their lights out. That's when they hand out all the rest of the



candy. 'Here you go, just take it.' We'd try to find and mark the houses that had the Snicker's or Reese's, the big-sized candy bars. One guy we really liked handed out the little boxes of cereal. When we'd come back at the end, he'd have a nice case for us. We'd take it home and get sick."

### **Who's the flashiest dresser on the team?**

"I'm not too sure about this year. Last year it would have been Cory Ross with his suits. Some of the suits he wore on game day were pretty unusual. We've got Tierre Green. He's worn a couple of flashy suits. But other than that, nobody's really worn the flashy stuff yet."

### **When you cook, what's your specialty?**

"I seem to make a pretty good mac and cheese. That's according to my girlfriend. Other than that, I just kind of stick to Hamburger Helper. I haven't branched out too much in the cooking. Macaroni and cheese, sometimes people overcook or undercook the noodles, I guess, and you've got to use real butter. You can't go with the margarine. Load it up with butter, and you're ready to go."

### **If you could play another sport at the collegiate level, what would it be?**

"I think I might play baseball because I always enjoyed playing baseball in high school. I kind of just phased out of it. I was an outfielder, center and left mostly."

### **If you could spend 30 minutes with a celebrity, sports or otherwise, who would it be?**

"I do enjoy hanging out with Larry the Cable Guy when he comes down here. But I'm not sure who I would pick, maybe Russell Crowe because I enjoy his movies a lot."

### **What's the most difficult class you've taken at Nebraska?**

"Not counting calculus, it's probably Spanish 210, one I'm in now. It's just a fast-paced class, advanced, two-year class. It's moving pretty good."

### **Jessica Simpson or Brittany Spears?**

"Jessica Simpson. We've got a big poster of her up in the house. Jessica's not nearly as weird anymore. She's a pretty good at-home celebrity, I guess you could say, as opposed to Brittany." ■



**Nebraska 21**  
**K-State 3**



Jake Wesch, Nebraska's holder for place-kicks, looks for tight end Hunter Teafatiller on a fake field goal in the first quarter. The play was good for a 17-yard touchdown. (Photo by Scott Bruhn)



# Taking Co

## *Huskers use poise to drown out K-State noise*

**By Mike Babcock  
Photos: Scott Bruhn**

**T**he post-game interview had just started inside the small tent outside Bill Snyder Family Stadium, and Bill Callahan's opening remarks included acknowledging victory No. 800 in the program's history. As he was saying how proud he was to be a part of it, an engine began to roar nearby.

"Those are the Harleys," Callahan said, acknowledging the obvious.

As it turned out, the Harley-Davidson motorcycles that paraded around the field before the game were little more than an irritant, about which Callahan was able to joke in explaining how difficult winning on the road in the Big 12 can be — and at Kansas State in particular.

"You've got the Harleys. You've got the crowd. You've got the band behind us," he said. "I was considering ear muffs today. It's loud, a loud place."

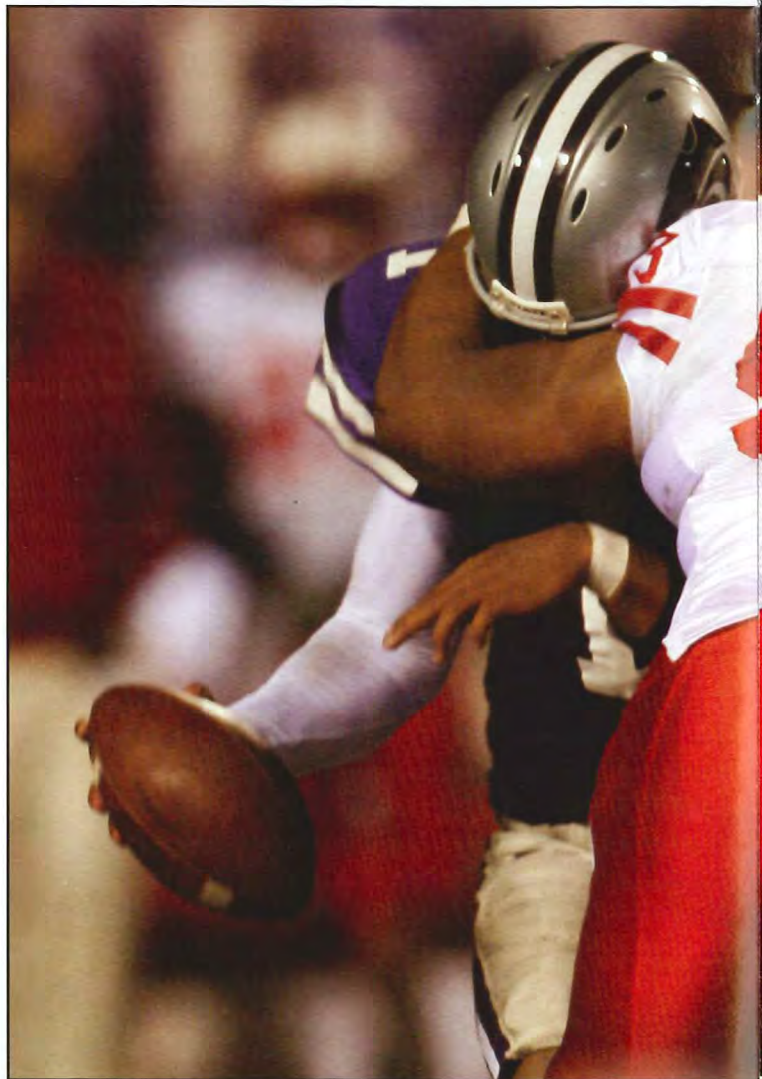
Nebraska didn't really quiet the crowd, despite taking control early and never being in serious jeopardy because of its running game and a stingy defense. Wildcat fans remained enthusiastic to the end, continuing to respond to the public address announcer's cue.

"Good for another . . ." he would begin. And the fans would add, "first down."

The problem was, Kansas State only managed five first downs in the first half (only one in the first quarter). And by halftime, the Cornhuskers were in charge. Or if not, with 8:55 remaining in the third quarter they were, after Marlon Lucky ran 40 yards for a touchdown to make the score 21-0.

Much of the talk in Nebraska during the week leading up to the game, among media and fans, focused on Josh Freeman, Kansas State's true freshman quarterback. Freeman, of course, backed out of an oral commitment to the Cornhuskers late in the recruiting process.

In addition, he allegedly notified Callahan of his decision by text message.



Nebraska defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh (93) sacks Kansas State quarterback Josh Freeman for a loss of 14 yards in the third quarter. It was one of four NU sacks.

## **WORTH ANOTHER LOOK**

Callahan was asked about that during his weekly news conference. "Oh, there you go again," he replied. "That's over. Recruiting's over. It's time to play, so we're excited about playing."

"They're a good football team. It's going to be a heck of a challenge. Let me put a few more coach-speak words in there for you. I hope you'll enjoy that."

His words elicited laughter.

"Next question," he said, "please."

The Cornhusker players denied any animosity toward



# Control



Freeman beforehand, and afterward as well. Defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh, who played host to Freeman on his recruiting visit, said he didn't say anything to Freeman during the game. "There were no words," he said. "I'm not a person that likes to use my mouth. I like to use my hands and feet to show what I can do."

The concern was not Freeman but rather his youth. He was starting for only the second time, and "we definitely wanted to get after him because he's a young quarterback and might be disoriented. We can use that to our advantage. He played a good game," Suh said.

"So I believe we did what we had to do to keep him inside."

Callahan was asked to comment specifically on Freeman's performance. "We've got great respect for Kansas State and *their* quarterback," he said. ■

## REPORT CARD

### RUSHING OFFENSE

Nebraska's offensive game plan again was to establish the run. "I think it's imperative when you get on the road in the Big 12 that you run the ball consistently," coach Bill Callahan said. "That's a physical style of running. We kind of locked up the box and kind of tried to punch them in the mouth, tried to come off and establish a physical run presence." The Cornhuskers averaged 4.4 yards per carry and finished with a time of possession advantage of nearly 10 minutes. ★★★★★

### PASSING OFFENSE

Taylor completed 12-of-21 passes for 149 yards and a touchdown to tight end Josh Mueller. But he was sacked four times, and his biggest play was probably a 24-yard run on fourth-and-2 to set up the Cornhuskers' second touchdown. "I think the good part of that play was there was so little time on the play clock I didn't have time to think about it," said Taylor. "So I ran out there and tried to make the fake the best I could. They were planning on a run from the tailback, so it worked pretty well." ★★★★★

### RUSHING DEFENSE

Kansas State rushed for a net of 22 yards, and that was including a 38-yard run by wide receiver Daniel Gonzalez on a fourth-down-and-3 from the Wildcats' 9-yard line late in the first quarter, with Nebraska leading 7-0. "The defense really had a stalwart effort today against their running attack, forced them into a one-dimensional game," Callahan said. ★★★★★

### PASSING DEFENSE

Josh Freeman, the Wildcats' true freshman quarterback, completed 23-of-47 passes for 272 yards, but he paid a price, throwing two interceptions, being sacked four times and hurried several other times, even though the official statistics didn't credit quarterback hurries for either team. "I just thought our defense had a nice pressure package today. We came at them with a lot of different stuff," said Callahan. ★★★★★

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Special teams were a point of emphasis during practice leading up to the game. Even so, Kansas State returned three kickoffs for a combined 83 yards. The Cornhuskers' first touchdown came on special teams, but Kansas State responded with a big play on a fake punt. Nebraska's Dan Titchener averaged 38.1 yards on eight punts, but more importantly, four of his punts were downed inside the 20, including one (a 29-yarder) at the Kansas State 2-yard line in the first quarter. ★★★★★

## NUMBERS

The Cornhuskers are 3-0 and atop the Big 12 North Division, after a Missouri loss at Texas A&M. And "the biggest thing is, we've won these last two games on the road," said quarterback Zac Taylor.

# 3



# NEBRASKA-KANSAS STATE NOTES

## AMONG ELITE

Nebraska snapped a four-game losing streak at Manhattan and became just the fourth team in college football history to reach 800 victories, joining Michigan (856), Notre Dame (816) and Texas (806).

"It's something we're very proud to contribute to tonight," said coach Bill Callahan.

Winning No. 800 "would be an awesome feat for this university," junior middle line-backer Corey McKeon said during the Cornhuskers' weekly news conference on Tuesday.

"I'd be more than happy to be a part of that this season, this game. Eight hundred wins is big-time. That's awesome. I can't wait to be a part of that."

But, he added: "That's not a guarantee. Don't 'Andre Jones' me."

He was referring to remarks Jones made before the Southern California game.

"I think it would be something to walk away from the university to have that in the back of your mind, that you're a part of something special," said senior free safety Andrew Shanle.

"Unfortunately, I've been a part of a lot of bad things at Nebraska. Obviously, I'm going to be proud of what we've accomplished here as a team and meeting great people, great coaches. It would be nice to have that milestone under your belt when you walk away."

And now, he and his teammates will.

The Cornhuskers' 700th and 500th victories also came at Kansas State's expense, 39-3 in 1996 (the last time they had won in Manhattan) and 51-0 at Memorial Stadium in 1976.

Victory No. 600 came against Missouri, 48-17, at Memorial Stadium in 1986.

Nebraska has had the winningest Division I-A program, far and away, since 1970. The Cornhuskers have won 366 games since then. Michigan is a distant second, with 338 victories, followed by Ohio State (329), Oklahoma (326) and Penn State (323).

## REV YOUR ENGINES

Prior to the game, some 100 Harley-Davidson motorcycles took a lap around the black-top at Bill Snyder Family Stadium's Wagner Field, on Kansas State's annual "Harley Day." In preparation, 50 members of a Harley-Davidson club in Lincoln showed up at Nebraska's practice on the Thursday before the game and took a lap around the field at Hawks Championship Center.

Offensive line coach Dennis Wagner and administrative assistant Tim McFadden arranged the surprise visit. "It was pretty loud," coach Bill Callahan said. "And it was a lot of fun. It was a great way for us to get accustomed to the atmosphere and get these guys warmed up for this game."

After taking the lap and revving their engines, the Harley riders parked outside the indoor facility and watched the practice. Dave Fischer, owner of the Harley-Davidson dealership in Lincoln, assembled the riders with only two-day's notice. With three, he could have assembled 500, he said.

## HUSKER ATTRACTION

The sellout crowd of 50,723 was Kansas State's first since the last time Nebraska visited Manhattan in 2004. The last four games against the Cornhuskers at the stadium have attracted at least 50,000, including a school-record of 53,811 for the 2000 game.

## TRAVELING SHOW

Nebraska's travel roster didn't include Steve Octavien or long snapper Lane Kelly, both of whom have been hampered by injuries. Sophomore T.J. O'Leary and redshirted freshman Nathan McBride were the long snappers who traveled. For the second game in a row, true freshman offensive lineman Keith Williams was among the 70 players who traveled.

Williams could be redshirted, but "we're preparing him to play," offensive line coach Dennis Wagner said earlier in the week. "The best player has got to be on the field. If that scenario comes up, we've told Keith he's got to be prepared to play. It happened to some guys last year later in the season. He knows that's why we moved him up and he has to be prepared to play in every game."

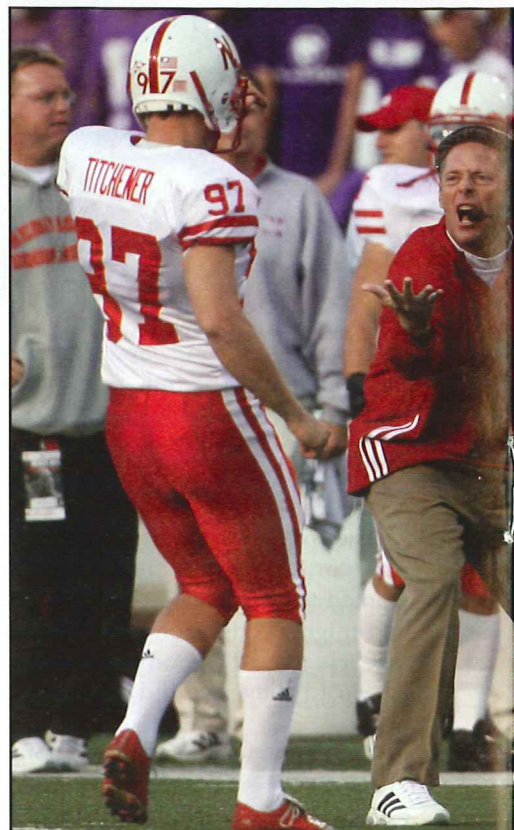
Williams would not play in a "clean-up role," however, said Wagner.

## BRIEFLY

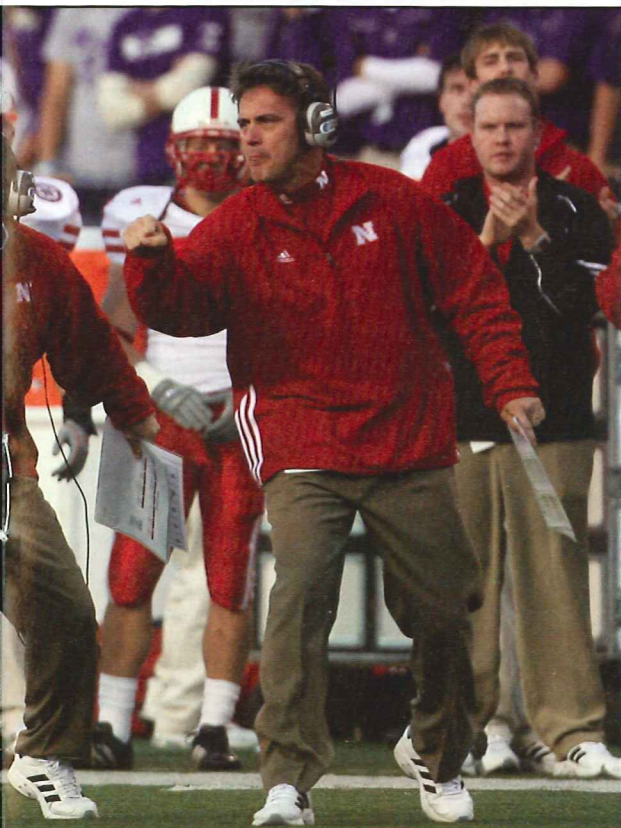
● For the fourth consecutive game, Nebraska has lost the coin toss, received the opening kickoff and driven to a touchdown to take a 7-0 lead. Junior center Brett Byford joined all-season captains Adam Carriker, Zac Taylor and Brandon Rigoni for the coin toss.

● Junior Brett Byford started the game at center. Senior Kurt Mann, who had missed all but the opening game against Louisiana Tech because of a bout with mono, returned to play on the fourth series of the second quarter and finished the game.

● With the victory, the Cornhuskers are bowl eligible for the second consecutive season and the 44th time in the program's history. They have won nine of their last 10 games overall and five in a row against Big 12 North Division opponents. The winning streak in the division is Nebraska's longest since winning its final divisional game in 2000 and then all four divisional games in 2001. ■







Special teams plays were a big part of Nebraska's 21-3 victory. Tight end Hunter Teafatiller (89) crosses the goal line (above) on a 17-yard pass play from holder Jake Wesch (37, left background). Punter Dan Titchener (87) is congratulated (left) by assistants Bill Busch (center) and Shawn Watson after his punt pinned Kansas State back at its own 2-yard line in the first quarter.

## Who Stood Out?

### OFFENSE

For the second week in a row, junior Brandon Jackson started at I-back and responded with a solid effort, setting the tone for Nebraska on offense. He rushed 92 yards on 16 carries and had a career-best 48-yard run on the opening touchdown drive. "He gives us a lot of change-up in terms of his reads," coach Bill Callahan said. "He's very consistent, aggressive, physical, like all of our backs." Sophomore Marlon Lucky carried 12 times for 71 yards, 40 of them on a touchdown run.



Brandon Jackson

### DEFENSE

Back-up nose tackle Ndamukong Suh sacked Josh Freeman, one of four times the Blackshirts got to the true freshman, and intercepted a Freeman pass. End Adam Carriker hit Freeman just as he released the ball. The interception was credited after the play was reviewed. "Establishing the line of scrimmage was a big thing for us," said Suh, who also was credited with a tackle for loss.



Ndamukong Suh

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Nebraska's first touchdown came on a fake field goal attempt when holder Jake Wesch tossed a 17-yard touchdown pass to tight end Hunter Teafatiller. Assistant coaches Dennis Wagner, Bill Busch and Shawn Watson were responsible for devising the play, according to Callahan, who pointed out that both Wesch and Teafatiller are walk-ons. "It was such a huge play," Callahan said. "We had practiced it consistently throughout the week. It was just good timing. It couldn't have been better timing."



Jake Wesch

## INJURY REPORT

Middle linebacker Corey McKeon was helped from the field after suffering an ankle injury with 13:48 remaining in the third quarter and didn't return. McKeon said afterward, however, that he was OK and would be able to return for the Texas game.



# GAME STATS

## SCORING

Oct. 14, 2006

Bill Snyder Family Stadium

Manhattan, Kan.

Attendance 50,723

	1	2	3	4	F
Nebraska	7	7	7	0	21
Kansas State	0	0	3	0	3

### First Quarter

**NU KS**  
 NU Teafatiller Pass from Wesch 17-yards  
 (Congdon Kick) 11:06 7 0  
**Drive:** 9 plays 80 yds 3:54

### Second Quarter

NU Mueller Pass from Taylor 3-yards  
 (Congdon Kick) 11:02 14 0  
**Drive:** 10 plays 80 yds 4:47

### Third Quarter

NU Lucky 40-yard Run  
 (Congdon Kick) 08:55 21 0  
**Drive:** 2 plays 72 yds 0:45

KS Snodgrass 53-yard Field Goal  
 04:44 21 3  
**Drive:** 12 plays 44 yds 4:11

## TEAM STATS

	NU	KS
<b>Total First Downs</b>	16	17
Rushing	7	3
Passing	9	14
Penalty	0	0
<b>Rushing Attempts</b>	43	18
<b>Yards Gained Rushing</b>	228	70
<b>Yards Lost Rushing</b>	38	48
<b>Net Yards Rushing</b>	190	22
<b>Net Yards Passing</b>	166	272
Passes Attempted	22	47
Passes Completed	13	23
Had Intercepted	0	2
Percent Completion	59.1%	48.9%
Yards per Attempt	7.5	5.8
Yards per Completion	12.8	11.8
<b>Total Offensive Plays</b>	65	65
<b>Total Net Yds</b>	356	294
Avg. Gain Per Play	5.5	4.5
<b>Fumbles: No-Lost</b>	2-0	0-0
<b>Penalties: No-Yds</b>	2-20	5-50
<b>Punts: No-Yds</b>	8-305	7-283
Avg. Per Punt	38.1	40.4
Avg. Net Punt	36.6	39.6
<b>Punt Returns: No-Yds</b>	2-6	2-12
<b>Kickoff Returns: No-Yds</b>	1-15	3-83
<b>Interception Ret.: No-Yds</b>	2-25	0-0
<b>Fumble Returns: No-Yds</b>	0-0	0-0
<b>Miscellaneous Yards</b>	0	0
<b>Possession Time</b>	34:51	25:09
<b>Third-Down Conv</b>	7-17	1-13
Percentage	41.2%	7.7%
<b>Fourth-Down Conv</b>	2-2	2-4
Percentage	100.0%	50.0%
<b>Sacks By: No-Yards</b>	4-35	4-19



NU I-back Brandon Jackson gets around Kansas State cornerback Dustin McKinney.

## INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

### NEBRASKA

	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Jackson	16	96	4	92	5.8	0	48
Lucky	12	83	12	71	5.9	1	40
Glenn	10	25	3	22	2.2	0	9
Taylor	5	24	19	5	1.0	0	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>48</b>

	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Taylor	21	12	57.1	0	149	1	32
Wesch	1	1	100.0	0	17	1	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>59.1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>32</b>

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Purify	4	73	0	32
Swift	2	29	0	16
Nunn	1	18	0	15
Teafatiller	1	17	1	17
Jackson	2	14	0	10
Phillips	1	8	0	8
Lucky	1	4	0	4
Mueller	1	3	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>32</b>

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Nunn	2	6	0	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Wilson	1	15	0	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>

	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In	20
Titchener	8	38.1	48	0	1	2	0	4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	

	Solo	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
Bradley	8	2	10	1-2	0-0	0	0	0
Jones	6	1	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Brandenburg	2	2	4	1-3	0-0	0	0	0
Green	3	1	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Ruud	2	1	3	1-3	0-0	1	0	0
Suh	3	0	3	2-16	1-14	0	0	0
Cryer	2	0	2	1-4	0-0	0	0	0
Dagunduro	2	0	2	2-8	1-6	0	0	0
Grixy	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Moore	2	0	2	1-13	1-13	0	0	0
Shanle	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Congdon	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Culbert	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Eisenhart	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Henry	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
McKeon	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
O'Hanlon	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Peterson	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Steinkuhler	1	0	1	1-2	1-2	0	0	0
Todd	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Wilson	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

### INTERCEPTION RETURNS

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Thenarse	1	25	0	25
Suh	1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>

### KANSAS STATE

	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Gonzalez	1	38	0	38	38.0	0	38
Patton	12	26	13	13	1.1	0	19
Freeman	5	6	35	-29	-5.8	0	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38</b>

	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Freeman	47	23	48.9	2	272	0	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>48.9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Moreira	6	86	0	22
Gonzalez	4	72	0	30
Norwood	4	48	0	17
Wilson	4	47	0	20
Patton	2	16	0	16
Brown	1	6	0	6
Raymer	1	0	0	0
Clayton	1	-3	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Figuers	2	12	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
McKinney	2	69	0	39
Figuers	1	14	0	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>

	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In	20
Reyer	7	40.4	55	0	1	3	1	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	

	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Snodgrass	1	2	53	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>0</b>

	Solo	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
Diles	4	6	10	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Campbell	6	2	8	2-5	1-2	0	0	0
Williams	6	1	7	1-2	0-0	0	0	0
Archer	4	2	6	1-9	1-9	1	0	0
Jackson	5	1	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
McKinney	5	1	6	1-3	0-0	1	1	0
Childs	4	0	4	1-1	0-0	0	0	0
Cline	3	1	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Moran	4	0	4	3-7	0-0	0	0	0
Walker	4	0	4	1-3	0-0	0	0	0



## 2006 SEASON STATS

### RUSHING

G	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Lucky, Marlon	7	76	490	14	476	6.3	6	51
Jackson, Brandon	7	65	377	15	362	5.6	3	48
Glenn, Cody	6	60	342	4	338	5.6	6	36
Wilson, Kenny	7	66	324	13	311	4.7	3	30
Nunn, Terrence	7	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Ganz, Joe	3	2	10	12	-2	-1.0	0	10
Hardy, Frantz	6	1	0	2	-2	-2.0	0	0
Taylor, Zac	7	24	61	73	-12	-0.5	1	24

### PASSING

G	Att	Comp	% Int	Yds	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Taylor, Zac	7	164	107	65.2	2	1547	14
Ganz, Joe	3	12	6	50.0	0	93	2
Titchener, Dan	7	1	1	100.0	0	28	0
Wesch, Jake	6	1	1	100.0	0	17	1

### RECEIVING

G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Nunn, Terrence	7	20	336	16.8	1	75
Purify, Maurice	7	15	333	22.2	2	42
Hardy, Frantz	6	9	221	24.6	3	78
Swift, Nate	7	11	183	16.6	0	49
Herian, Matt	7	10	141	14.1	2	36
Peterson, Todd	7	7	120	17.1	1	31
Lucky, Marlon	7	12	117	9.8	0	19
Jackson, Brandon	7	10	75	7.5	0	22
Phillips, J.B.	7	10	63	6.3	2	10
Teafattiller, Hunter	7	2	46	23.0	2	29
Mueller, Josh	7	4	21	5.2	2	8
Senske, Matt	3	2	13	6.5	1	12
Todd, Dane	7	2	9	4.5	1	8
Erickson, Dan	7	1	7	7.0	0	7

### PUNT RETURNS LEADERS

G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Nunn, Terrence	7	18	153	8.5	0	31
Swift, Nate	7	2	49	24.5	0	33

### KICKOFF RETURNS LEADERS

G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Green, Tierre	7	3	59	19.7	0	23
Jackson, Brandon	7	3	56	18.7	0	24
Wilson, Kenny	7	2	42	21.0	0	27

### PUNTING

G	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TD	FC	50+	In	20
Titchener, Dan	7	32	39.2	53	0	2	14	3	12

### FIELD GOALS

G	Att	Made	Lg	Blkd
Congdon, Jordan	7	3	2	38

### DEFENSE LEADERS

G	Tack	Ass	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
Bradley, Stewart	7	24	20	44	3-12	0-0	1	1
McKeon, Corey	7	18	19	37	2-6	0-0	2	1
Green, Tierre	7	19	17	36	0-1	0-0	0	0
Ruud, Bo	7	15	21	36	2-8	0-0	1	1
Jones, Andre	7	25	8	33	0-0	0-0	4	0
Grixby, Courtney	7	20	4	24	0-0	0-0	5	1
Carriker, Adam	7	8	14	22	5-14	1-7	2	0
Shanley, Andrew	7	16	6	22	0-0	0-0	2	0
Moore, Jay	7	11	9	20	5-38	3-29	1	0
Cryer, Barry	7	11	8	19	5-25	1-13	2	0
Brandenburg, Lance	7	9	7	16	2-6	0-0	0	0
Suh, Ndamukong	7	9	5	14	6-45	3-37	0	1
Steinkuhler, Ty	7	11	2	13	2-6	1-2	0	1
Turner, Barry	7	6	5	11	0-1	0-0	1	0

### TEAM STATISTICS

	NU	OPP
<b>Total First Downs</b>	144	117
Rushing	71	37
Passing	69	73
Penalty	4	7
<b>Total Net Yards</b>	3139	2214
Total Plays	478	444
Yards Per Play	6.6	5.0
Yards Per Game	448.4	316.3
<b>Rushing Attempts-Yards</b>	300-1454	208-688
Yards Per Attempt	4.8	3.3
Yards Per Game	207.7	98.3
<b>Pass Att.-Comp.-Int.</b>	178-115-2	236-121-8
<b>Passing Yards</b>	1685	1526
Yards Per Completion	14.7	12.6
Yards Per Game	240.7	218.0
<b>Punting: No.-Avg.</b>	32-39.2	45-39.8
<b>Fumbles-Lost</b>	14-7	19-8
<b>Penalties-Yards</b>	35-306	44-317
<b>Sacks By-Yds. Lost</b>	12-104	11-80
<b>Third-Down Conversions</b>	45-94	29-96
Conversion Pct.	47.9	30.2
<b>Fourth-Down Conversions</b>	8-11	6-15
Conversion Pct.	72.7	40.0
<b>Avg. Time Of Possession</b>	33:08	26:52

Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Nebraska	69	70	42	71	7	259
Opponents	7	34	19	34	0	94

## 2006 RESULTS, SCHEDULE

1	Sept. 2	Louisiana Tech (1-5), W 49-10	1-0
2	Sept. 9	Nicholls State (2-4), W 56-7	2-0
3	Sept. 16	@USC (6-0), L 28-10	2-1
4	Sept. 23	Troy (2-4), W 56-0	3-1
5	Sept. 30	Kansas (3-4), W 39-32 (OT)	4-1
6	Oct. 7	@Iowa State (3-4), W 28-14	5-1
7	Oct. 14	@Kansas State (4-3), W 21-3	6-1
8	Oct. 21	Texas (6-1), 11 a.m., ABC	
9	Oct. 28	@Oklahoma State (4-2), TBA	
10	Nov. 4	Missouri (6-1), TBA (Homecoming)	
11	Nov. 11	@Texas A&M (6-1), TBA	
12	Nov. 24	Colorado (1-6), 2:30 p.m., ABC	
	Dec. 2	Big 12 Championship at Kansas City, Mo., 7 p.m., ABC	

## SCOUTING REPORT

### GAME 8

#### Texas Oct. 21

Location: Austin, Texas

Enrollment: 50,403

2006 record: 6-1

Coach: Mack Brown, ninth year

Series: Texas leads 6-4-0

11 a.m. (CDT), ABC

Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb.

### Quick Facts

Redshirt freshman Colt McCoy set a Texas record with six touchdown passes as the Longhorns recovered from an early 10-point deficit to roll over Baylor 63-31.

The Longhorns won their 18th

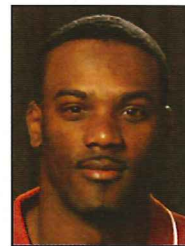
consecutive Big 12 game to extend their own league record.

Texas held its opponent under 100 rushing yards for the sixth time in seven games in 2006.

The Longhorns have forced 10 fumbles over the last two games.

### Longhorn to Watch

Senior cornerback Aaron Ross continues to show his versatility for the Longhorns. He ranks second in tackles (46) and leads the team in interceptions (4) and pass breakups (10). Ross has had one sack and forced two fumbles. He has scored two touchdowns, one on a punt return and one on a fumble return.



## BIG 12 AT A GLANCE

North				South			
W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Nebraska	3	0	1	Texas	3	0	6
Missouri	2	1	6	Texas A&M	2	1	6
Kansas St.	1	2	4	Baylor	2	1	3
Colorado	1	2	1	Oklahoma	1	1	4
Iowa State	0	3	3	Oklahoma St.	1	1	4
Kansas	0	3	3	Texas Tech	1	2	4

Saturday, Oct. 14

Nebraska 21, Kansas State 3  
Texas A&M 25, Missouri 19  
Oklahoma State 42, Kansas 32  
Oklahoma 34, Iowa State 9  
Texas 63, Baylor 31  
Colorado 30, Texas Tech 6

## ON DECK

### At Oklahoma State Oct. 28

Location: Stillwater, Okla.

Enrollment: 31,800

2006 record: 4-2

Coach: Mike Gundy, second year

Series: Nebraska leads 36-3-1

Time TBA

Pickens Stadium, Stillwater, Okla.





## TENTATIVE 2-DEEPS

### NEBRASKA OFFENSE

WRX	87	Nate Swift*	6-2	195	So.
	7	Frantz Hardy*	6-1	180	Jr.
LT	54	Chris Patrick*	6-4	290	Jr.
	76	Lydon Murtha*	6-7	315	So.
LG	65	Greg Austin***	6-1	295	Sr.
	62	Andy Christensen	6-3	300	So.
C	50	Kurt Mann**	6-4	290	Sr.
	59	Brett Byford	6-3	300	Jr.
RG	61	Mike Huff*	6-4	305	So.
	67	Jacob Hickman	6-4	280	Fr.
RT	70	Matt Slauson*	6-5	335	So.
	77	Carl Nicks	6-5	325	Jr.
TE	11	Matt Herian***	6-5	245	Sr.
	81	Josh Mueller**	6-5	265	Jr.
WRZ	83	Terrence Nunn**	6-0	185	Jr.
	17	Todd Peterson*	6-4	210	So.
QB	13	Zac Taylor*	6-2	210	Sr.
	8	Joe Ganz	6-1	200	So.
FB	41	Dane Todd***	5-11	235	Sr.
	42	Matt Senske	6-3	235	Jr.
IB	20	Marlon Lucky*	6-0	210	So.
	27	Kenny Wilson	6-0	220	Jr.
PK	29	Jordan Congdon*	5-11	175	So.

### NEBRASKA DEFENSE

DE	44	Jay Moore*	6-4	280	Sr.
	99	Barry Turner*	6-3	250	So.
NT	54	Ola Dagunduro*	6-2	300	Sr.
	93	Ndamukong Suh	6-4	315	So.
DT	94	Barry Cryer*	6-2	280	Sr.
	43	Ty Steinkuhler*	6-3	280	So.
DE	90	Adam Carriker***	6-6	295	Sr.
	98	Zach Potter*	6-7	280	So.
SLB	34	Stewart Bradley***	6-4	245	Sr.
	88	Clayton Sievers*	6-4	240	So.
MLB	13	Corey McKeon*	6-1	225	Jr.
	40	Lance Brandenburgh**	6-1	230	Jr.
WLB	51	Bo Ruud**	6-3	235	Jr.
	40	Lance Brandenburgh**	6-1	230	Jr.
SCB	25	Andre Jones	6-0	195	Jr.
	4	Rickey Thenarse	6-0	185	Fr.
SS	30	Tierre Green**	6-1	200	Jr.
	6	Major Culbert	6-0	200	Fr.
FS	8	Andrew Shanle***	6-1	210	Sr.
	9	Bryan Wilson	6-1	200	Jr.
WCB	2	Cortney Grixby**	5-9	170	Jr.
	23	Corey Young	6-0	195	Fr.
P	97	Dan Titchener	6-0	200	So.

### TEXAS OFFENSE

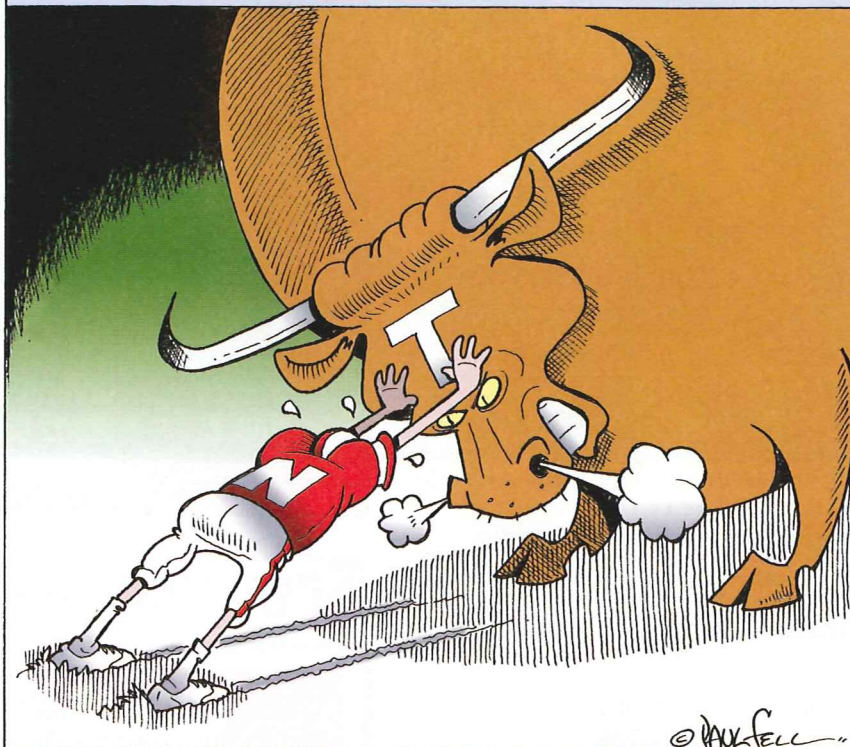
SE	4	Limas Sweed**	6-5	219	Jr.
	9	Nate Jones**	6-2	195	Jr.
LT	79	Tony Hills**	6-6	295	Sr.
	74	Adam Ulatoski	6-8	290	RFr.
LG	64	Kasey Studdard**	6-3	305	Sr.
	71	Chris Hall	6-4	280	RFr.
C	62	Lyle Sendlein***	6-5	305	Sr.
	67	Dallas Griffin*	6-4	275	Jr.
RG	63	Justin Blalock***	6-4	329	Sr.
	71	Chris Hall	6-4	280	RFr.
RT	74	Adam Ulatoski	6-8	290	RFr.
	63	Justin Blalock***	6-4	329	Sr.
TE	87	Neale Tweedie***	6-5	265	Sr.
	16	Jermichael Finley	6-5	220	RFr.
FL	2	Billy Pittman*	6-0	198	Jr.
	8	Jordan Shipley	6-0	184	So.
QB	12	Colt McCoy	6-3	195	RFr.
	7	Jevan Snead	6-3	215	Fr.
TB	22	Selvin Young***	6-0	215	Sr.
	25	Jamaal Charles*	6-1	190	So.
FB	3	Chris Ogbonnaya	6-1	220	So.
	32	Marcus Myers	6-3	250	Sr.
PK	97	Greg Johnson*	6-1	195	Sr.

### TEXAS DEFENSE

DE	80	Tim Crowder**	6-4	270	Sr.
	98	Brian Orakpo*	6-4	238	So.
DT	97	Frank Okam**	6-5	315	Jr.
	95	Aaron Lewis*	6-4	275	So.
NT	96	Derek Lokey**	6-2	275	Jr.
	91	Tully Janszen**	6-3	280	Sr.
DE	39	Brian Robinson***	6-3	275	Sr.
	95	Aaron Lewis*	6-4	275	So.
SLB	40	Robert Killebrew**	6-2	230	Sr.
	2	Sergio Kindle	6-4	225	Fr.
MLB	44	Rashad Bobino*	5-11	230	So.
	11	Jared Norton	6-3	236	Fr.
WLB	33	Scott Derry*	6-3	230	Jr.
	4	Drew Kelson**	6-2	215	Jr.
LCB	31	Aaron Ross***	6-1	192	Sr.
	29	Ryan Palmer*	5-10	185	So.
SS	27	Michael Griffin***	6-0	205	Sr.
	12	Robert Joseph	6-2	195	Fr.
FS	26	Marcus Griffin**	6-0	205	Jr.
	18	Matt Melton***	6-0	210	Sr.
RCB	5	Tarell Brown***	6-0	200	Sr.
	28	Brandon Foster*	5-9	180	Jr.
P	97	Greg Johnson*	6-1	195	Sr.

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<b>Texas @Nebraska</b>	Texas 24, Nebraska 23	Texas 31, Nebraska 27	Nebraska 20, Texas 17	Texas 28, Nebraska 24	Nebraska 27, Texas 21
<b>Kansas State @Missouri</b>	Missouri 27, Kansas St. 17	Missouri 28, Kansas St. 10	Missouri 35, Kansas St. 21	Missouri 31, Kansas St. 13	Missouri 35, Kansas St. 14
<b>Texas Tech @Iowa State</b>	Iowa State 30, Texas Tech 27	Iowa State 38, Texas Tech 35	Texas Tech 37, Iowa State 20	Iowa State 31, Texas Tech 30	Iowa State 34, Texas Tech 24
<b>Iowa @Michigan</b>	Michigan 31, Iowa 13	Michigan 21, Iowa 17	Michigan 14, Iowa 10	Michigan 38, Iowa 24	Michigan 30, Iowa 20
<b>Last Week</b>	2-2	2-2	3-1	3-1	2-2
<b>Season</b>	18-10	25-3	25-3	25-3	24-4

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# Reloading at Linebacker

**Highly regarded  
LB from Kansas  
joins Nebraska's  
2007 commit list**

**By Rick Shaw**

**D**ue to the physical nature of the position, good defenses need to be athletic at linebacker and have plenty of depth.

Nebraska was left thin at the linebacker spots in the first half of the season, as Steve Octavien and Phillip Dillard missed time due to injuries. Though the Huskers lose only Stewart Bradley from their two-deep corp of linebackers at the end of this season, they'll lose four more after the 2007 slate, when Octavien, Bo Ruud, Lance



Linebacker recruit Blake Lawrence picked Nebraska over Kansas.

Brandenburgh and Cory McKeon graduate.

To help stock their defensive ranks for the future, Nebraska will likely

sign at least three linebacker prospects to letters of intent in February.

Blake Lawrence (6-foot-2, 199 pounds), a highly sought outside linebacker from Overland Park (Shawnee Mission West), Kan., delivered his oral commitment to Husker coaches on Oct. 11, becoming the 13th known commitment for Nebraska's recruiting class of 2007. He chose the Huskers over scholarship offers from Arizona State, Colorado, Michigan State, Kansas State, Michigan State and Kansas.

Rated the No. 2 prospect in the state and a four-star prospect by Rivals.com, Lawrence earned all-state honors as a junior after tallying 90 tackles, 13 tackles for loss and four sacks. He had narrowed his college finalists down to the Huskers and Jayhawks before pulling out a red baseball cap with a white "N" at a school news conference.

"It came down to going where the

## NEBRASKA COMMITMENTS FOR 2007

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	40	Hometown (School)
Anthony Blue	DB	5-10	172	4.57	Cedar Hill, Texas
Quentin Castille	RB	6-1	234	4.6	La Porte, Texas
Jared Crick	DE	6-6	245	4.8	Cozad, Neb.
Demetrious Davis	DT	6-2	286	5.22	St. Joseph, Mo. (Benton)
Jared Glover	DE	6-5	220	4.75	Bixby, Okla.
Ian Harris	TE	6-3	217	4.76	San Antonio, Texas (Churchill)
Roy Helu	RB	5-11	206	4.62	Danville, Calif. (San Ramon Valley)
Ryan Hill	TE	6-3	230	4.7	Arvada, Colo. (West)
Blake Lawrence	LB	6-2	199	4.65	Overland Park, Kan. (Shawnee Mission West)
Niles Paul	WR	6-2	210	4.4	Omaha, Neb. (North)
Shawn Sullivan	DB	5-11	182	4.4	Brenham, Texas
DeAndre West	DB	6-1	195	4.4	Oakland, Calif. (Wilson Prep)
Patrick Witt	QB	6-4	215	4.95	Wylie, Texas

For more daily recruiting information, visit [HuskersIllustrated.com](http://HuskersIllustrated.com), a member of the Rivals.com network.



heart is," Lawrence said. "That is something that coach Coz (Kevin Cosgrove) told me the whole time, and I agree with him. I made a great decision, and I look forward to the future.

"Nebraska has a great environment. Their game-time atmosphere is second to none in the Big 12 North and will be something great to play in. Also, their great tradition, with all of their national championships and stuff, came into play."

Lawrence's older brother Tyler is a freshman quarterback at Kansas, a factor that complicated the decision-making process. In the end, however, the "gut feel" he experienced after visiting Lincoln won him over.

"There are a lot of factors that make both schools great, so there are certain things that you just can't replace," Lawrence said. "That is the feeling you get when you go to a place . . . the feeling I got when I was at Lincoln for the game and when I was in Lincoln for the junior day and the spring game.

"Those were the times I started noticing this would be a great place to play. No matter what the facilities are and who is surrounding you, when it's inside of you, you just have to go with it."

Another linebacker prospect that could be joining the Nebraska recruiting class very soon is Brandon Herron. In fact, an argument could be made that the 6-2, 205-pound prospect out of Sugarland (Fort Bend Dulles), Texas, has already "cast his lot" for the Cornhuskers.

"I consider myself a strong lean to Nebraska," Herron said, "and the main reason I haven't committed yet is because I haven't seen their campus. My parents would like me to take a few other visits, too, but coach (Ted) Gilmore is ok with that. He knows where my heart is."

Rated the No. 38 prospect in the state (three stars) by Rivals.com, Herron was a first-team all-district selection as a junior. Combining outstanding athleticism (4.55-second 40-yard dash and 37-inch vertical jump) with a good football instincts, Herron has the potential to be a star-quality outside linebacker at the college level. Though he favors Nebraska, he also holds scholarship offers from Colorado, Kansas State, Oklahoma State, Arizona, Michigan State, Missouri, Texas Tech and Minnesota, among others.

Another highly regarded line-

## RECRUITING NOTES

# One Additional Quarterback?

By Sean Stevens

**Q**uarterback is a position that was very up-in-the-air for Nebraska during fall camp in 2006. Sure Zac Taylor was cemented as the starter, however, with Harrison Beck leaving the program the only players behind Taylor were unproven sophomores Joe Ganz and Beau Davis.

The situation was somewhat resolved by the addition of first Brian Hildebrand and then Arizona State transfer Sam Keller. The problem remains, however, that when the 2007 season begins, none of the quarterbacks on the current roster will have more than two seasons left. That means that quarterback recruiting is of paramount importance for the 2007 recruiting class.



Patrick Witt

Nebraska sewed up an early commitment from Wylie, Texas gunslinger Patrick Witt, and the 6-foot-4, 215-pounder has had a solid senior season to date. In one recent game, Witt threw for 257 yards and five touchdowns and ran for another score. Despite spending his first three years of high school in a predominately run-based offense in the Atlanta, Ga., metro area, Witt has adapted well to Wylie's spread attack and has performed admirably as the school has moved up to Texas' largest classification.

With only Witt in the fold, Nebraska must look for another QB for the 2007 class to build depth for the future. The Huskers missed out on many of their top targets, including Ryan Mallett, who committed to Michigan, Jarrett Lee (LSU), Chris Forcier (UCLA), and Logan Grey (Georgia).

Who are some of the other possibilities?

Cade Cooper of Snow College in Ephraim, Utah, is one option. The 6-3, 195-pounder is also being courted by Oklahoma and BYU, among others. He plans to visit Nebraska for the Colorado game Nov. 24.

Through six games this fall, Cooper had thrown for nearly 1,400 yards and 16 touchdowns while completing 67 percent of his passes. He has led Snow to a No. 2 ranking nationally.

While Husker fans might wonder why NU would look to a Juco quarterback, Cooper will have a redshirt year available and will also be a January enrollee. That allows him to come in and learn the Huskers' version of the West Coast Offense at a little slower pace and possibly redshirt in 2007 and still have two years to play.

Steve Heiman of Papillion, Neb., is another option for the Huskers. Although he doesn't yet hold a Nebraska offer, Heiman impressed at the Nebraska Elite Quarterback Academy this past summer. There might be a scholarship offer in his future, or possibly a greyshirt offer from the Husker staff.

A third possibility is LaTravis Washington of Bradenton, Fla. Washington is the cousin of former Husker cornerback Fabian Washington. The 6-3, 215-pounder is being recruited by schools around the nation, many of whom are seeking him as a quarterback.

The Huskers have offered him as a safety, however, and Washington seems excited about that possibility. He feels that his best opportunity to make the NFL is as a safety. If the Huskers are short of quarterbacks Washington may be given a shot behind center. Ohio State is Nebraska's primary competition for Washington.

Other players will pop up as Signing Day nears, but look for the Huskers to take two quarterbacks for the 2007 recruiting class. ■



backer prospect holding Nebraska in the lead hails from the Southeast. Earl Patin, a 6-1, 228-pound middle line-backer from Baton Rouge (Southern Lab), La., made a visit to Lincoln in mid-September and nearly committed before he left campus.

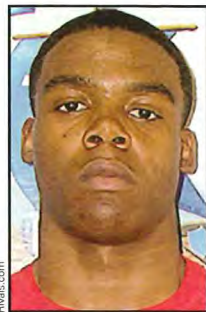
"Nebraska is No. 1 with me," Patin said. "I've been to LSU on a couple of unofficial visits, and Nebraska beats them in almost every way . . . the people there, the fans, the academics, the facilities . . . everything."

"It was a '10' on a scale of one to 10."

Patin, a three-star prospect by Rivals.com, holds scholarship offers from Nebraska, LSU, Auburn, Clemson, Florida, Ole Miss and others. He earned first-team all-state honors as a junior after racking up 80 tackles and six sacks.

Kendale Farlow of Evanston (Township), Ill., may not be as heralded as some of the other linebacker prospects on Nebraska's board, but Husker coaches think he could make a big impact in Lincoln.

At 6-1 and 190 pounds, Farlow can cover 40 yards in 4.45 seconds. After a year in Nebraska's weight program and a 15- to 20-pound weight gain, Farlow could be wreaking havoc on opposing quarterbacks in the Big 12.



Brandon Herron



Earl Patin



Kendale Farlow



Larry Assante

Farlow said he's "having a pretty good season," with an average of more than 10 tackles a game and 2 1/2 sacks in his first two games.

"I've already looked at Nebraska a little on the Internet and stuff," he said. "From what I can tell, it looks like they have nice facilities, and I know they win a lot of games. I'm looking forward to getting there and seeing things for myself."

In addition to Nebraska, Farlow also holds scholarship offers from Iowa State, Eastern Michigan and Central Michigan. He's also earning a good deal of attention from Iowa, Purdue and Minnesota.

One of the top linebacker prospects in the junior college ranks for 2006 is, undoubtedly, Larry Assante of Coffeyville (Kan.) Community

College. The 6-1, 225-pound athlete with 4.4-second 40-yard dash speed is scheduled to visit Nebraska for the game against Colorado.

Rated the No. 10 junior college prospect in the country (four stars) by Rivals.com, Assante is being recruited by Nebraska, Kansas State, Michigan, Texas A&M, Arkansas and Virginia Tech. Coffeyville assistant coach Rico Cherico calls Assante one of the best linebackers he's ever been around.

"Larry is one of the most impressive linebacker prospects we've ever had here," Cherico said, "and Coffeyville has a great tradition for linebackers. Shoot, this kid is the real deal." ■

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9-30 Kansas  
10-21 Texas  
11-4 Missouri  
11-24 C.U.

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# She Took t

## *Decision to enroll early pays off for Nebraska freshman*

**By Todd Henrichs**

**T**here's a storied history of talented middle blockers at Nebraska, everyone from Melissa Elmer last season to Terri Kanouse, the first All-American in the volleyball program's proud history.

Yet few, if any, of Nebraska's former middle blockers cracked the starting lineup as quickly as has Kori Cooper. The freshman from Amarillo, Texas, got her big break only 11 matches into her collegiate career. Facing Texas Tech at the sold-out Coliseum, Cooper came up with five kills, but most impressively, hit .455 while showing few signs of jitters.

"I'm not saying I don't get nervous, because I do," Cooper said. "I just try not to let it take over my mental game."

"It's one of the things I've been taught since I was little. Act the same if you win or lose. Act the same if there's two people in the crowd or 4,000."

"I just try to keep a steady mentality throughout the game."

On paper, Cooper may be only months into her first collegiate season, but she's experienced beyond her years in what it takes to compete



Freshman Kori Cooper had eight kills against Kansas State and eight against Texas A&M to tie her career high.



# the Chance

at the highest level.

First, Cooper learned from her father, Rick, who is head coach of the men's basketball team at West Texas A&M. Both of her parents played college basketball at Wayland Baptist.

Cooper, herself, made the mature decision to forgo the final semester of her high school years to get an early start at Nebraska. She enrolled last January, and while her former high school classmates were walking across the stage collecting diplomas on graduation day, Cooper was walking on the Great Wall of China.

"I got better pictures," she joked.

But by enrolling early, Cooper was able to practice with Nebraska in the spring exhibition season and played during the team's training trip to China and Japan in May.

Had Cooper not joined the program early, it's doubtful that she would be anywhere close to the starting lineup this fall.

"I missed the prom, high school graduation and stuff like that, but I got such a great opportunity to fulfill my dream," Cooper said. "I took the chance, and it turned out for the best."

Without that, she added: "I think I would be very, very far behind."

It's barely been a year since Cooper suffered a knee injury that required surgery on the anterior cruciate ligament. Once at Nebraska, however, Cooper was able to push her rehabilitation with the help of staff members.

In the spring, Cooper was allowed to participate in games and drills in only a limited role, but she was cleared to cut loose during the training trip.

By fall, her biggest concern wasn't anything physical, but simply trying to regain some sort of presence on the court. For someone who has played extensively at the high school and

club levels, and even internationally with the U.S. Youth National Team, going almost a year without playing in a real match is a significant change.

That was especially true for Cooper.

"Kori has a great perspective," said Nebraska head coach John Cook. "She really enjoys playing, she's very passionate, and she has a real outgoing personality."

"She's always in the moment. It doesn't matter whether we're having a pre-game meal, or at practice, or we're playing."

It was just after the pre-game meal when Cooper learned she'd be starting for the first time. The freshman is expected to be in a season-long battle with sophomore Amanda Gates for playing time at the second middle blocker position.

Gates is considered the better blocker of the two while Cooper is easily the bigger threat as an attacker.

At Texas A&M, Cooper matched her career high with eight kills while hitting .615.

"She really knows how to get herself in position so the setters will set her the ball," Cook said after an earlier match. "But blocking, she looked like a freshman."

Nebraska has had other freshmen start at middle blocker. But Elmer, a three-time All-American, did so only after a redshirt season. Amber Holmquist, a member of the Big 12's all-decade team, didn't start until halfway through the conference season of her freshman year.

Tracy Stalls, who starts at the other middle blocker spot for Nebraska, spent her first year after high school training within the U.S. National Team program. Stalls has worked closely with Cooper this season to help acclimate her to the college game.

"I'm very appreciative of the

opportunity to get out here and compete for a spot," Cooper said. "That's what any great player wants. They want someplace where they can compete." ■

*Todd Henrichs covers the Nebraska volleyball team for the Lincoln Journal Star. He can be reached at 473-7439 or [thenrichs@journalstar.com](mailto:thenrichs@journalstar.com)*

## RESULTS, SCHEDULE

Aug. 29 San Diego W 3-0

### Labor Day Tournament At Lincoln, Neb.

Sept. 1 St. Mary's W 3-0  
Sept. 2 Middle Tennessee St. W 3-0  
Sept. 3 Long Beach State W 3-0

### Players Challenge At Lincoln, Neb.

Sept. 8 Louisville W 3-0  
Sept. 9 Cal Poly W 3-0  
Sept. 10 Minnesota W 3-1

Sept. 13 Kansas W 3-0  
Sept. 16 @Oklahoma W 3-0  
Sept. 20 Iowa State W 3-0  
Sept. 23 Texas Tech W 3-0  
Sept. 24 @Creighton W 3-1  
Sept. 30 @Baylor W 3-1  
Oct. 4 Kansas State W 3-0  
Oct. 7 @Texas A&M W 3-0  
Oct. 11 @Missouri W 3-0  
Oct. 14 Colorado 7 p.m.  
Oct. 18 @Texas 6:30 p.m.  
Oct. 25 Missouri 7:30 p.m.  
Oct. 28 @Kansas State 7 p.m.  
Nov. 1 @Texas Tech 7 p.m.  
Nov. 4 Oklahoma TBA  
Nov. 8 @Iowa State 6:30 p.m.  
Nov. 11 @Colorado 8 p.m.  
Nov. 15 Texas A&M 7 p.m.  
Nov. 18 Baylor 7 p.m.  
Nov. 22 @Kansas 7 p.m.  
Nov. 25 Texas 7 p.m.

### Nov. 30-Dec. 3 NCAA First/Second Rounds At Campus Sites

### Dec. 8-9 NCAA Regionals At Campus Sites

### Dec 14-16 NCAA Final Four At Qwest Center (Omaha, Neb.)





# Ready to Take Charge

***Brown plans to  
make the most  
of his final year  
as a Husker***

**BY KATELYN KERKHOVE**

Andrew Brown batted .298 and hit nine home runs in his first season at Nebraska. He transferred from Paris (Texas) Junior College.

**T**here's no pressure on senior Andrew Brown this year.

He's being counted on as one of the Nebraska baseball team's big hitters for the 2007 season. He's competing for the starting job at first base, succeeding Brandon Buckman. And he's hoping to end his collegiate career at the College World Series. But there's no pressure, right?

OK, so maybe there's a little. But Brown would never admit it.

With nine home runs last season, his first as a Cornhusker, Brown was third on the team. And he's ready to take charge at the plate again this season, as well as in the field. But "there's no pressure at all," he said. "It's the same game, just a different year. It's my last year here, and I want to be able to do everything possible to help this team be a winning team and get to the Series."

This fall, Brown's main focus has been getting stronger. He has hit the weight room hard, and Cornhusker coach Mike Anderson said it is paying off.

Brown is swinging the bat a little better, Anderson said,

and now he just needs to focus on going after the perfect pitches. "He still needs to get better at just discipline at the plate — swinging at his pitch," Anderson said. "He tends to swing at the pitcher's pitch, pitches up in the zone. He needs to swing at strikes, obviously. He gets a little rambunctious and swings at some bad pitches once in a while."

In the field, Brown is looking to replace Buckman at first base. With the starting position up for grabs, Brown will battle junior college transfer Thad Weber for the spot. No matter who wins the job, however, Anderson said he plans to get Brown in the lineup somewhere.

In addition, Anderson is looking to Brown for leadership. With 11 freshmen starting their careers this year, veterans will have to be on top of things to keep the younger players in line.

Brown knows what it's like to earn respect. He was new last season, after transferring from Paris (Texas) Junior College. And he plans on showing this year's freshmen how to do it rather than telling them. To begin with, Brown said, they just need a little bit of confidence.

"You have to go out and perform," he said. "You get the

Scott Brulin



chance, and if you don't take it, then they look at you like 'He doesn't have anything I don't.' You are trying to earn a spot, but you also just have to go out there and play."

Last year, Brown did just that.

He had three hits to tie a career high and hit his eighth home run in Nebraska's 4-1 victory against Creighton in mid-May. The victory gave the Huskers a 3-0 sweep of the Bluejays for the season. The home run was Brown's fourth in a six-game stretch.

It wasn't his favorite memory of his first year as a Husker, however. He likes the big home runs.

"Honestly, I would have to say my home run against (Oklahoma State) was the best," he said. "Even though we lost, it was probably the best hit ball I've ever done. It went the farthest."

With his ability to make big plays, Brown said he hopes to show his younger teammates how to play like a Husker, rather than tell them. While he is outgoing off the field, when he's on the field, he admitted that his philosophy changes, and his leadership style follows.

"Out here, it's more I want to be the person to show them exactly how they should be acting, how they should play every day, as opposed to being the outspoken leader saying 'You need to do this. You need to do that,'" he said. "That's not really me. I'd rather be the person to do it, than not."

Maybe he still feels the need to prove himself, but Brown said he is going into the season with the intention of helping Nebraska get back to the College World Series. That is his goal — no pressure needed.

"(My goal is to do) what I need to do to help the team," Brown said. "If that means me putting down a bunt, or whatever I'm called upon to do, I just need to make sure I

focus in on that, and I get the task done, so the next guy behind me can drive in the runner or do whatever they need to do."

## HELD OUT

The Cornhuskers' projected weekend starting pitchers didn't participate in the Red-White Series and neither did All-Big 12 shortstop Ryan Wehrle, who is coming off knee surgery.

Pitchers Tony Watson, Johnny Dorn and Charlie Shirek were backed down during the fall to give them a rest from their work in the spring and summer. As a result, "it's been a challenging fall from a leadership standpoint, from just an experience standpoint," said coach Mike Anderson.

"If you don't have a Tony Watson, if you don't have the high-end things, then they (hitters) think it's just down here," Anderson said. "Sometimes, failure from that side, getting beat by Tony Watson or getting beat by those guys is a good thing because they learn they need to get a little better."

## COMPETITIVENESS

What Anderson wanted to see in the Red-White Series was competitiveness, "not necessarily to weed it out. The one thing we haven't had is the ability to put it all together, where I've put team A, I mean our first-teamers, put them all together and said, 'Here we go.' We really haven't had that," he said.

"We've split the teams most of the year, and when you do that, the depth is a little bit down, and you're putting yourself up for some young mistakes. We've seen that most of the fall. We've had a good practice and then come right back and had a bad one. So when you have the chance to put your horses together, you can start pulling in the same direction."

The series "really becomes an evaluation tool for us. I want to see them compete," Anderson said. "We could say it's another scrimmage, but we try to sell it, put it off to the kids that it's a big deal. It's the Red-White. In that mode, we want them to be as highly competitive as they possibly can."

NCAA rules don't allow for a fall baseball schedule, unlike softball.

"So this is the best we can do," said Anderson. "When you see kids put in adverse, challenging situations, you get different responses, sometimes great, sometimes poor." ■

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# SOCCER



Senior Brittany Timko (17, above) and sophomore Selenia Iachelli (9, right) compete against Baylor on Oct. 6 in Lincoln. Timko scored in the 81st minute of regulation, and sophomore Aysha Jamani connected 51 seconds into the first overtime period to lift the Huskers to a 2-1 victory. (PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRUHN)





# BIG RED



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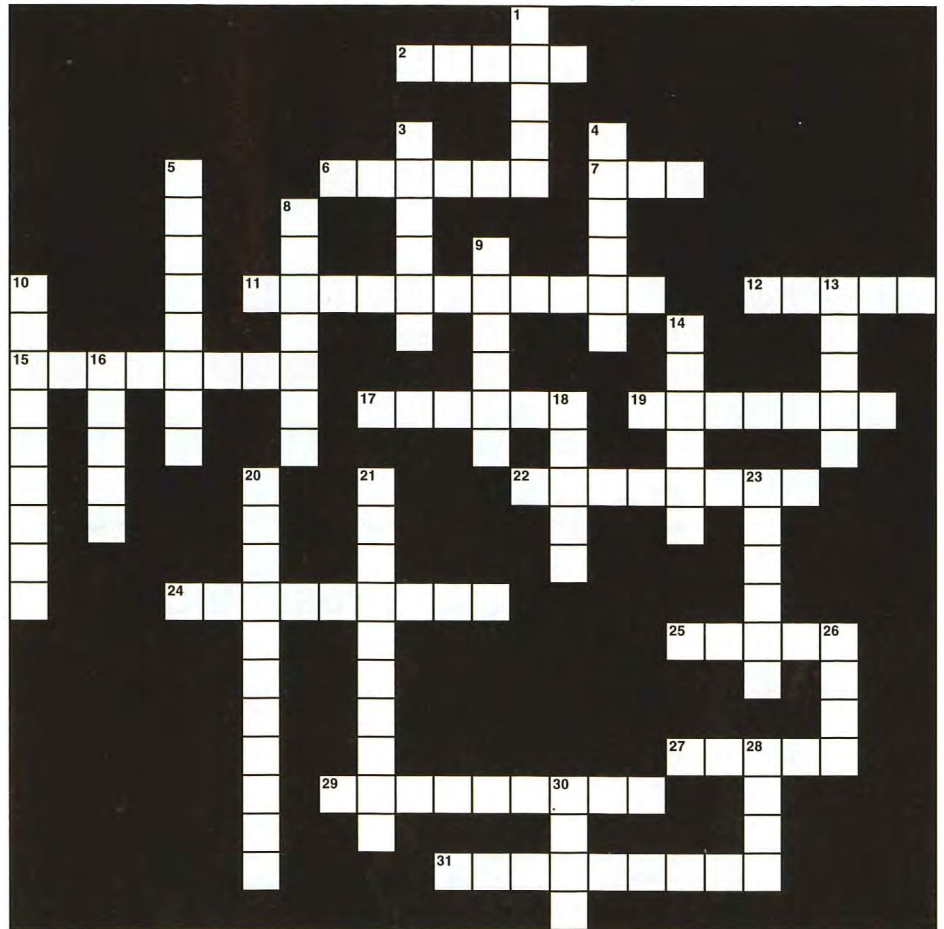
## ACROSS

- 2 2005 national champion
- 6 Had first career interception vs. Iowa State
- 7 Network for NU-Texas game
- 11 1983 Outland Trophy winner
- 12 Texas quarterback
- 15 Homecoming opponent
- 17 Caught touchdown pass vs. Iowa State
- 19 Wears No. 34 (defense)
- 22 2003 All-America defensive back
- 24 Big 12 championship stadium
- 25 Wears No. 34 (offense)
- 27 Texas head coach
- 29 Texas nickname
- 31 Wears No. 54 (defense)

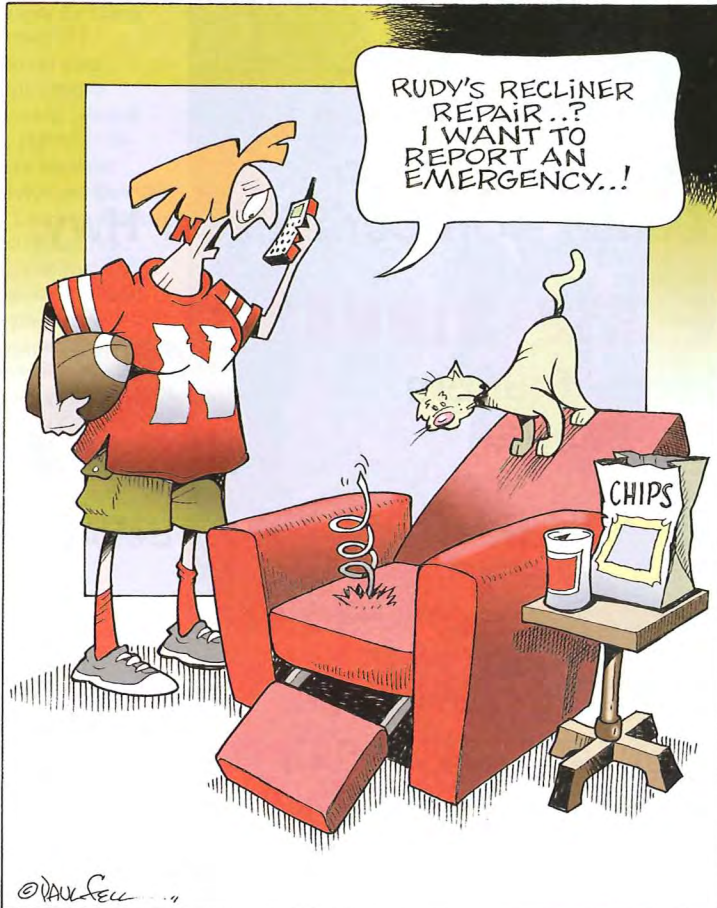
## DOWN

- 1 Wide receiver from Florida
- 3 Special teams captain
- 4 Offensive line coach
- 5 College Bill Callahan first coached at
- 8 Wears No. 54 (offense)
- 9 Texas campus location
- 10 1982 Outland Trophy winner
- 13 Wears No. 94
- 14 2003 All-America punter
- 16 Wide receiver from Minnesota
- 18 Former Texas quarterback
- 20 Bill Callahan's college position
- 21 2005 NFL 1st round pick
- 23 Quarterback redshirting this year
- 26 Wide receiver from Texas
- 28 Frank Solich's current school
- 30 Leading tackler vs. Iowa State

Answers in Oct. 28 issue



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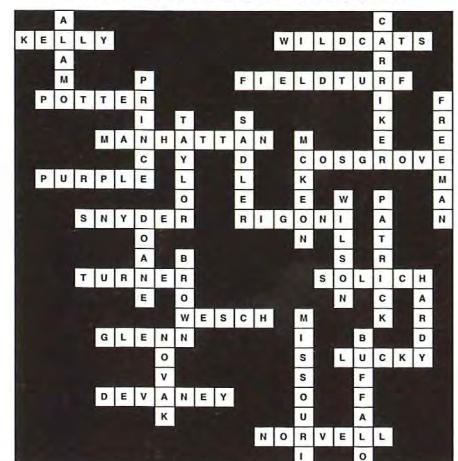
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## Running Into Texas

*Huskers say they won't be intimidated  
by defending national champion Longhorns*



**Mike  
BABCOCK**

MAYBE REPORTERS UNDERSTOOD the focus of coach Bill Callahan's third team. But for whatever reason, no one asked if the Cornhuskers were looking ahead to the Texas game.

The subject never came up the week before they played Kansas State.

In fact, the first mention was during post-game interviews. Quarterback Zac Taylor was asked about midway through his interview. Had he been thinking about the Longhorns.

Yes, he had, said Taylor, "the last 5 minutes probably."

And what he thought was, "we all know that they're going to have a great team." The defending national champions would bring a top five national ranking to Memorial Stadium.

Nebraska wouldn't be intimidated, however, according to Taylor, because "we've played some great teams already. We played a good USC team, and we hung with them," he said.

"There will be a lot of talent on the field. But we believe we can play with anybody."

Actually, Southern California is the only "great" team Nebraska has played this season. The undefeated Trojans were ranked No. 3 in the Associated Press poll last week (No. 2 in the coaches' poll). And Auburn upset Florida, the AP's No. 2 team. So you can do the math.

Anyway, the Cornhuskers lost at USC in the third game of the season, 28-10. Despite the loss, the experience helped to shape the Nebraska team that methodically defeated Kansas State, 21-3. "We all feel like we hung right there with them," Taylor said. "We had our chances to win.

"We're not going to be intimidated by anybody."

Some criticized Callahan's conservative game plan for USC. But the wisdom of his approach has been born out as the Trojans battled for Pac-10 victories the past four weeks.

Prior to defeating Arizona State 28-21 at the LA Coliseum, USC coach Pete Carroll was quoted in The Orange County Register about the approach opponents were taking. "It's a little frustrating in a sense because they peck away at you," he said. "They attempt to play keep-away from us, I think, is what offenses have done. I think Nebraska probably sent a little message out in that regard.

"And teams are trying to do it in their own style."

The Cornhuskers tried to control the clock by running against USC. They didn't succeed, finishing with 68 yards on 36 carries. But they were down only 14-3 at halftime

and if not for a lost fumble that set up a Trojan touchdown early in the third quarter, they could have had a shot late in the game.

They have remained committed to the run since then, and except for a blip against Kansas, they've run well. And "if you can have a dominant running game, you're going to back a lot of people off," said Taylor. That, in turn, "opens you up to do a lot of different things."

Going into the Kansas State game, Nebraska ranked first in the Big 12 and eighth nationally in rushing, averaging 210.67 yards per game. The Wildcat defense was allowing a little over half that many rushing yards and figured to provide a tough test of the ground game.

Nebraska rushed for 190 yards and, more importantly, averaged 4.4 yards per attempt.

Last season, the Cornhuskers rushed for an average of 98 yards per game. The improvement has been dramatic, and "it's a great feeling right now," offensive line coach Dennis Wagner said.

"But I'm more concerned about where we are at the end of the season. There's still a long way to go, but we're happy with what we're doing. That's where it goes to the saying, 'pound the rock.' It's not just about running the ball. It's about being consistent throughout a whole season, continue to do what you're doing and do it well, keep it going until you knock it out."

If Nebraska were to continue to run as it has, "I'd be a real happy guy," he said.

The Cornhuskers didn't turn the ball over against Kansas State, something else that can make Wagner, Callahan and the rest of the coaches happy. Nebraska's success "speaks to execution, which is a matter of focus and obviously the attention to detail," said Callahan. "That's the biggest thing I see. For a coach that's satisfying, but we've got an awful lot to improve just based on what we saw out there."

Taylor spoke to the same thing. We've proven we can take care of the ball and win on the road," he said. "Now it's going to be a big game against Texas. They're going to have a tough team."

Nebraska has shown it can be a tough team, too. It has improved since the USC game.

"We're more confident with ourselves," Taylor said. "We're moving the ball. And our defense is playing lights out right now. We've got more wins under our belts. Our younger guys are improving every day with experience. I think that's the biggest difference from then to now."

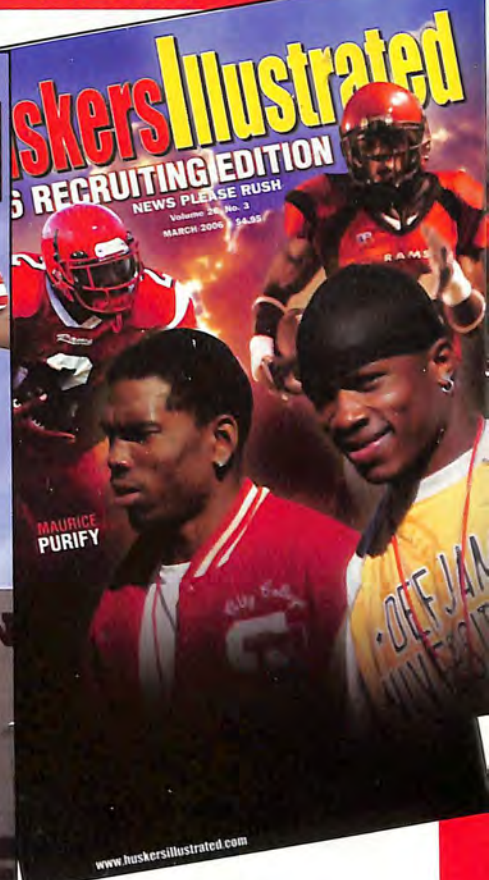
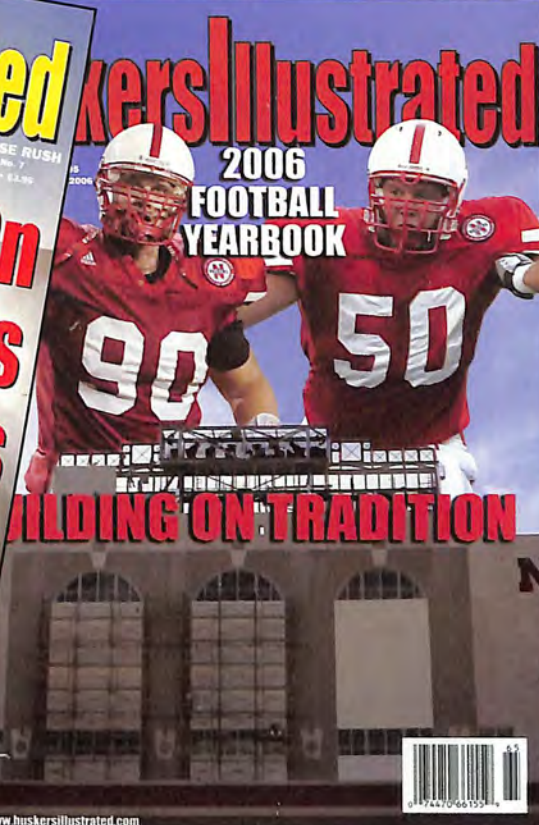
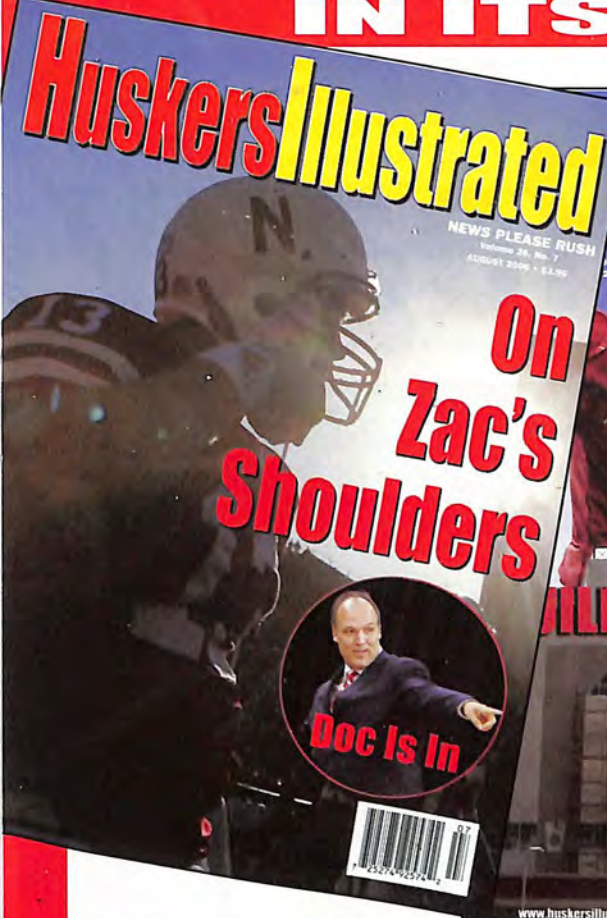
Next up Texas. And if Taylor is to be believed, the Cornhuskers are ready. ■



**Quarterback Zac Taylor  
had a 24-yard run against  
Kansas State.**



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